

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived, per the ss. *Sachsen* on the 3rd instant; and the French Mail of the 6th January was due to arrive, per the ss. *Caledonien*, on the 6th instant.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The s.s. *Scotsman* on the 1st inst. cleared for Vladivostock with a cargo of rice from Saigon. The price of gasat Hongkong was reduced on February 1st from \$3.50 to \$3.00 per 1,000 feet.

A Singapore "boy," for stealing some of his master's brandy, was fined for "criminal breach of trust."

On 2nd inst. the N.D.L. s.s. *Sachsen* broke down off Hongkong Island and was towed to port by the tug *Robert Cooke*.

Official information has been received that Hongkong has been declared an infected port by the Government of Madras.

Fire broke out on board the British steamer *Dundas* at Shanghai on January 27th. The officers' quarters were burnt out.

It has been decided to reduce the garrison of Hongkong by one regiment of native infantry and orders will be issued accordingly.

Coal valued at Yen 14,817,868 was exported from Japan last year; the value of the coal exported during the preceding year was Yen 19,260,503.

At Galle the B.I. s.s. *Secundra* was purchased by a syndicate of Moorish capitalists for £10,400, which was considered to be a very satisfactory figure.

Captain Stanley Amsbury, of the barque *Atlas*, shot himself dead with a revolver on the 23rd Jan. while his ship was at Shanghai. He was an American subject.

Capt. Pennyfather, of the China Navigation s.s. *Tuning* has been transferred to the *Sung-kang*, vice Capt. Robinson transferred to the *Shantung*, vice Capt. Warrack transferred to the *Kansu*.

Pagain, the Igorrote murderer, is stated to have developed acute mania since his committal. H.E. the Governor has granted a respite and ordered that the man be imprisoned during His Majesty's pleasure.

The fire reported by our Shanghai correspondent on January 24th appears to have been the largest outbreak for twelve months. The premises were occupied by Messrs. Volkart Bros., and Messrs. W. H. Boyd & Co.

A special telegram to our Shanghai contemporary announces (on Jan. 25) that H. B. Collins of Yokohama has been sentenced to eleven years' penal servitude, having been convicted on the charge of being a Russian spy.

Mr. A. Wright, architect and surveyor, died at the Government Civil Hospital on the 2nd and was buried next day. Deceased had been in failing health for a long time, with paralysis. He was a native of Australia, forty-two years of age.

In the early hours of the morning of Feb. 1 a Chinese Sergeant Detective of Police, while on detective duty, was attacked by four law-breakers at Antan, in the New Territory, about six miles from Taipo. He is in a precarious condition.

The inquiry into the death of the coolie who was killed by the fall of a wardrobe at Morrison Hill Road on the 25th Jan. was concluded before H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on Feb. 1st. The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

The Empress Dowager of China has set apart one of the secretaries of the Imperial Household to keep her posted in every development of the war as so much was being withheld from her, and at some of the Council meetings she has surprised the Grand Council by knowing more than they do about the trend of events.

The Washington State Department, says the *Japan Herald*, has directed the American Embassy at St. Petersburg to petition the Admiralty Court for a re-hearing of the case of the P. A. Line steamer *Arabia* (captured by the Russian Vladivostock Squadron on July 22nd 100 miles north of Yokohama), on the ground that the time afforded owing to the delays incident to communication was insufficient for the perfection of an appeal before the case came up.

A telegram has arrived from H.B.M. Consul at Bangkok to the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, dated 28th January, which states that Hongkong is not declared infected, but is considered a suspected port, arrivals from which merit medical inspection rather than quarantine. The station for quarantine and inspection is changed from Kohphai to Kohphra.

Another concert, by command of His Excellency the Governor, was held at Government House on Jan. 31. About 400 guests were present. The Orpheus Society, under the direction of Mr. A. G. Ward, contributed. Songs were given by Mrs. Fullerton, Surgeon G. Ross, R.N. and Mr. W. E. Schmidt. Mesdames Kruger and Marty gave a duet; and Miss Brown two violin solos.

The s.s. *Ferdene* put into Hongkong in distress on 3rd inst. She is on a voyage from Japan to Java with coal. Shortly before leaving Japan the chief officer died from small-pox, and at sea the captain, chief engineer and steward all caught the same malady. The second officer brought the ship to Hongkong, and the three sick men were transferred to the hulk *Hygeia*. The vessel has been fumigated, and is kept in strict quarantine.

"Kung Hay Fat Choy" we wish our Chinese friends with the closing of this week. Crackers and bombs remind us that another Chinese New Year has come. Saturday the streets in the Central District wore a roseate hue. Flower stalls adorned them, and together with the stalls of various pedlars who have all sorts of curios for sale, remind the resident or tourist of the Eastern Wonderland so much read of in story books. The appearance of the natives in their silks and satins was unusually gay and added the finishing touch to the brightness of the brightest period in the Chinese calendar.

A native, named Huang, connected with a concern designated the "Pi-Chung Lu-Kuang Kung-ze," or Belgian-Chinese Railway and Mining Company, of Hunan province, having been discovered by the authorities there collecting large sums of money on his own responsibility in Hankow and Shanghai, and giving receipts in the name of the above named company, the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Ch'angsha has communicated with the Shanghai Taotai on the subject, with the request that he should warn the public of that port against accepting these unauthorised receipts, as they will not be recognised by the company.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says: This portion of the Chinese year appears to have been quite disastrous to several native banks here, especially those owned by Cantonese, as it is reported that two of the largest of these have been compelled to suspend payment, the first with liabilities said to amount to over Tls. 1,800,000, and the second Tls. 700,000, odd. Another Cantonese bank, it is feared, will in consequence find difficulty in tiding over the Chinese year, which is now so closely approaching its end. Besides the above financial disasters it is stated that one of the largest and best-known native goldsmith shops in the International Settlement is in difficulties owing to its business manager having dabbled in exchange in connection with tea and silk, whereby he has failed, involving no less a sum than Tls. 300,000. There are also other failures in the air, which it is premature to notice at present.

A CHINESE INQUISITION SUGGESTED.

(Daily Press, 28th January.)

Professor JENKS, the American commissioner who recently gave the Chinese some much-needed information and advice about their currency system, has given a provincial governor his opinions of the missionary question. He regards the matter as one of real political importance, as "missionary work in China is a source of very much trouble," although "the missionaries do a considerable good." The trouble they occasion by defending converts, before the Chinese officials, more than seems justifiable, by weakening the allegiance of Chinese subjects, and by allowing their church organisations to be used by local families and clans to further local quarrels. Thus, on evidence obtained during his travels, Professor JENKS sums up the sources of trouble. The first count is probably true, as it is a natural thing to do; and besides, were it not for the hope of such championship, there would be fewer converts. As for the second, theoretically, it is unbelievable. These converts are surely taught the duty of rendering unto CÆSAR the things that are CÆSAR'S, and that they fail to do so is no fault of the missionaries. It has been noticed that the spirit of patriotism is in the Chinese moribund; and if we consider the facts that they have an alien race in dominance over them, and a system of government which fails to secure any coherence of the interests of its widespread parts, we need not wonder at the absence of that general loyalty and patriotic fervour which is so noticeable in the case of the Japanese. Every untamed Chinaman bristles at sight of a foreigner, but that is not patriotism. It is the instinct that works in the case of the animal jealous for its habitat, the pike for its own particular pool, the eagle for its eyrie, the carnivorous brute for its own section of jungle. Given a certain time of isolation, and a certain sort of ignorance, and that instinct persists in the human animal. The third indictment mentioned by Professor JENKS is really a part of the first. Most Chinese litigation appears to be between members of different clans, and when the missionary sides with a convert, he is sure to find himself embroiled in some family jar. Summing up the good the missionaries do, the Professor mentions medicine, education, and religion, in that order. The first is admitted instantly, the second needs qualifying, and the third is certainly the point about which controversy could rage. Professor JENKS handles it rather gingerly, as a wise man should. He says: "So far as the missionaries in their religious teaching oppose the doctrines of the Chinese religions on the mere ground that they are non-Christian or that they interfere with Christian worship, they are, in my judgment, mistaken and should not be encouraged in this teaching. On the other hand, wherever they can show that some of the beliefs or doctrines which have crept into the religious creeds of the Chinese people tend to encourage superstition or tend to oppose progress, and so far as they can show that these characteristics are wrong because they are unscientific, or do harm to the State as is shown by their results, there can be little objection to this criticism of the Chinese religion any more than there would be to similar criticism which might be equally true of some of the doctrines and practices taught in the Christian Churches."

The passage beginning with the words "On the other hand" has its importance vitiated by the reference to superstition. Who, whether they accept the definition that

all belief in the supernatural is superstition, or not, will give to the foreign advocates of rival creeds the right to say which of the many Chinese beliefs are superstitious, and which not? In his commentary on the principles of the various religions that are being imported into China, the PROFESSOR has obviously been led into very unwise insinuations against the Roman Catholics. Implicit obedience to religious teachers as a practice is scarcely worse than the individual's obedience to the dictates of his own conscience, since there are so many unable to distinguish impulses and appetites from the voice of the mysterious attribute referred to. Professor JENKS does not give the result of his historical studies honestly, or at least carefully, when he credits religion as the sponsor of the individual liberty enjoyed in Europe and America. The church almost invariably sided with the class that would have restricted liberty, and on many occasions it was its intolerance that made men strike for liberty. Of all the tasks sought to be imposed on the unhappy Government of China, we can imagine none more Sisyphean than this now recommended, that it should study the various religious creeds, with a view to discriminate against those tending to national disunity. China would do better to copy Japan's example, and by ignoring them as political factors, reduce their capacity for mischief. They have a recent object lesson in the labour demonstrations in London and St. Petersburg. A contemptuous tolerance maintained the peace in one case; official interference, in the other, led to massacres and revolutions.

THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

(Daily Press 30th January)

From time to time suggestions have been thrown out of some more extended alliance than that at present existing between Great Britain and Japan. It is not surprising that rumours in this direction should have got about; and from more recent information it would appear that such an idea has in some form been entertained by Japan. Of necessity, however, nothing very definite has come out on the subject. Diplomats are not disposed to be too communicative, and the subject is one in respect to which a prudent reserve is likely to be preserved. Probably, however, the utterances which have been made, have been in the nature of feelers; and it is likely that, at all events up to the present, nothing very precise has been contemplated. So far as Great Britain is concerned, she is in the present day for very good reasons disinclined to general alliances. In theory they may appear admirable, but in practice, all experience shows, they are apt to become embarrassing and may frequently lead to complications in very unexpected ways, and often in very unexpected directions. It thus happened that, when it became known before the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war that a compact had been arrived at between Great Britain and Japan, many far-seeing men were gravely apprehensive that a serious mistake had been made. Events have fully justified the step taken, and have proved that the British Government was far better informed as to the true state of matters than was imagined or than it is generally credited with being with respect to foreign affairs. It has, however, now been fully demonstrated that the attitude assumed was that best calculated to preserve the peace, and that this end would have been attained had Russia shown herself in any way open to reason. No

doubt the attitude was practically an endorsement of Japan's policy and of the demands which she made for checking the encroachments of Russia in Manchuria and Corea. Japan, it is true, was the nation most immediately concerned, but Russian encroachments and her threatening to assume the position of the dominant Power in the Far East were also a serious menace to British, American, and other foreign interests. Whether Russia will attain the position to which she aspires is an issue yet to be decided. That her design was first to reduce the influence of Japan, and next to establish herself as the dominant Power in respect to that country and China, there can be no doubt. The idea which seems mainly to have actuated her was that she would be allowed to pursue this policy if in return she consented not to meddle with British interests in India. By attacking Japan and at the same time adroitly hinting at trouble to Great Britain on the Indian border, she hoped to gain the acquiescence of the latter country in her Far Eastern policy, and then use this vantage ground as might seem best—most probably in the direction of making further trouble in the direction of India. There can be little doubt that a policy very much of this kind is that which Russia has still in view, though it would seem unlikely that for many years to come she will have an opportunity of putting it into effect in any effectual manner. Still the direction of her ambitions has been very definitely shown, and Russia is the most persistent of all nations in adhering to a given line of policy and watching her opportunities for furthering it. No doubt recent events have been a sad disappointment as well as an unexpected awakening to Russia. She underestimated altogether what was before her, and at best can only come out of a terrible struggle much weakened and crippled. It would, however, be too much to hope that the lesson which has been taught her will be sufficient necessarily to cause her to alter her plans. Pushing on in the Far East has become her traditional policy, and we may be sure Russia will be slow to abandon it.

Under these circumstances her movements will always require to be carefully watched, and the task of doing this will largely devolve in the future, as it has done in the past, on Great Britain and Japan. The interests of both nations are in common on the essential point of preventing any other nation having a predominant position in Asia. The prestige of Great Britain in India would be gravely affected; and this consideration—apart from possible more serious eventualities—is one which far-seeing Statesmen cannot disregard. The two nations having this dominant issue in common are likely to be actuated by a common policy; and it is from a recognition of this fact, that the idea of a possible defensive alliance has originated. That the trend of events is in this direction is undoubted; but the time has hardly come for any formal convention further than the alliance which already exists. Nor is it likely that a declared alliance of the kind suggested would be greatly beneficial. Common interest will probably do more than could be accomplished by any definite engagement; and it is also likely that the consciousness of the possibility of such a combination taking place, should the necessity arise, will form a greater restraining influence on Russia than the existence of any actual compact to that effect.

That there will be a friendly understanding between the two nations to adhere to a policy that may secure peace in the Far East in the future may be taken for grant-

ed; but it is scarcely likely that Great Britain would be disposed to bind herself in a fixed manner as the champion under all circumstances of even so desirable a cause. It has to be remembered that Great Britain does not stand alone. America is deeply interested, and other foreign nations have their interests to protect. The best hope is that European nations generally will recognise that the day is past for any attempts at a masterful policy in the Far East. The difficulties of pursuing any aggressive line of action have been shown to be far greater than has been imagined, and there will in the future be a wise tendency to abstain from high-handed aggression which may involve altogether unforeseen cost and responsibility. There will thus be a consensus of opinion in the direction of more peaceable and consequently more stable relations; and the common action of the majority of the Powers, through their influence both in China and Japan, will go far towards preserving the peace. There is also the consideration which has been well brought forward by a well-informed correspondent of the *Times* newspaper, that matters may settle down after the war through better relations being established between Russia and Japan, at least for a long time to come. If this should be the case the cause of opposition to England on the part of Russia, namely the fear that that country may interfere with her scheme of aggression in the Far East, would be removed, and thus the necessity of any formal alliance between England and Japan would be removed also.

A CHINO-JAPANESE ENTENTE?

(*Daily Press*, 31st January.)

The arrival at some understanding between China and Japan, which has been foreshadowed by recent events, and has been actually announced in various forms of late, is by no means unlikely to become an accomplished fact. The trend of affairs has been entirely in that direction, and it is the interest of both nations that an agreement of some kind should be made for their mutual protection and benefit. The scanty information that has been forthcoming on the subject seems to indicate that Japan at least recognises the necessity of coming to definite terms with China; and the probabilities are that the latter country will find it to her advantage to fall in with the views of her neighbour in this respect. It is surprising that China has during the convulsions that have arisen been able to maintain something like a neutral attitude. At the opening of the war it was generally believed, or at least generally apprehended, that China would certainly be drawn in on one side or the other. But in a Chinese kind of way she has managed to maintain a fairly neutral attitude, and has shown greater powers of central control than from all that is known of her past history could have been expected. It was obviously her policy to await the outcome of events, and no one can blame her for having adopted an opportunist policy in the difficult position in which the outbreak of the war placed her. But recent events are likely to cause her to lean towards some sort of alliance, or at least common understanding with Japan, however little she might formerly have been inclined to such a course. Chinese statesmen are not as a rule very far-sighted; but no one can deny that they are always clear-sighted. Given actual facts, they usually know how to deal with them; and recent events must have made it apparent to her that Russia is no longer a Power upon which she can rely for support against

aggression from other nations, while on the other hand, the support of Japan is likely to be of great value. Under such circumstances it would seem to the interests of both nations to make common cause, and to endeavour to come to a friendly understanding, not only as to Manchuria, but upon other matters in respect to which the interests of the two nations are at one.

The most natural way in which this might be accomplished would of course be by something in the form of treaty; but the probabilities are rather in the direction of some secret understanding than of a formal treaty. The latter would be open to objection on the part of some of the foreign Powers, or at least would be likely to be interfered with by them. Probably the main point to be settled between China and Japan will be arranged by treaty, while at the same time there is some understanding between them as to common action in certain eventualities. This at all events is what seems to be foreshadowed by the various intimations that there have been on the subject, and on the whole it will probably be the best thing that can happen in the interests of peace and of legitimate commercial progress in the Far East. China of course could not be very strongly relied upon as an ally either of Japan or of any other nation. The instincts of Chinese statesmen are too opportunist to allow of implicit reliance being placed upon their acting up to any general understanding, should circumstances arise in which it may appear dangerous or disadvantageous for China to do so. But the probabilities all lie in the opposite direction; and the likelihood is that reasonable common action would for many years to come be found obviously to the advantage of both nations. So far as European nations are concerned, this is likely to be to their advantage rather than otherwise, as the Japanese have always been disposed to a more liberal policy in trade and other matters towards foreign nations than has China. The suggestion by Japan that Manchuria should be open to foreign trade generally is an instance in point. Should this be arranged, the co-operation of those nations would be secured, at least as far as diplomacy is concerned, in preserving the state of things that would be established in that country under either Japanese or joint Japanese and Chinese rule; and affairs would thus be upon a securer basis politically and a more advantageous footing commercially than they could be if the country remained as before always likely to be overrun by Russia, whose trading policy there as elsewhere would be of a purely protective and restrictive character. In this as in other matters an advance would be made which would be substantially to the advantage of foreign nations generally; and in other directions, it is likely that China would be induced to adopt a more liberal policy than she has hitherto done. It could be seen that Japan had benefited by that course; and that similar benefit might be obtained by China in the same direction. On the whole, therefore, an understanding of the kind indicated would tend to the improvement of commercial relations, and would also be in the interests of peace, by diminishing the likelihood of further attempts being made against the integrity of China, the preservation of which is as essential to Japan as to China herself.

The Nagasaki correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* reports telegraphically that Pelatika Sergey, part owner of the cargo of the captured steamer *Nigretia*, has been released at Sasebo, and was to leave Nagasaki in the P.M.S. *Mongolia*.

THE WAR SETTLEMENTS.

(*Daily Press*, 1st February.)

Amidst the stirring events which have for a long time past absorbed public attention in the East, and indeed throughout the world, there is a danger that the cause which has led up to them may be overlooked. This would be a serious matter when the time comes for a re-settlement after the conclusion of the war. Those who are acquainted with the history of political movements in these parts can have little difficulty in finding the true cause of the troubles that have arisen. That cause undoubtedly is the inherent weakness of China and her uncertain and insincere external policy. It was this that brought about the war between China and Japan, and it was this also that gave Russia the opportunity of filching from Japan the position which she had fairly gained by conquest in that war; and thus giving cause for the war between Japan and Russia. But for the inability of China to hold her own in Manchuria, and the weakness with which she permitted Russia to continue in occupation of that country in defiance of repeated promises to evacuate it, the war which has proved so disastrous would never have broken out. China deliberately allowed her integrity to be threatened, and with it the interests and in all probability also the integrity of Japan. The motive which induced her to take up this unfortunate position was no doubt largely a fear of Russia; and it is but common justice to admit that this fear was apparently only too well founded. Another motive, however, may well have actuated Chinese statesmen. The effect of allowing Russian encroachments must have been apparent to them. Others not better informed and certainly not more astute than the Chinese clearly foresaw the trend of events. Either Russia would have to stop her advances on the representations of Japan or there would be war between the two countries. In either case Japan would be forced to fight China's battle for her—diplomatically in the one case and by force of arms in the other; and this is precisely what would commend itself to Chinese statesmen, who have ever since we have known them shown themselves adepts at profiting by pitting one nation against another. The burden anyway was thus pushed off their own shoulders and responsibility evaded for the time being, which is generally the chief aim of Chinese officials, when difficulties arise. Russia and Japan being both from her point of view the rivals or opponents of China, nothing could be more in accord with the eternal order of things than to set those two nations the one against the other and see what came of it. The outcome, however, as is usually the case in regard to far reaching diplomacy, has been "the only thing certain"—"the unexpected"—and, in this case, certainly the very unexpected.

That Japan might make some kind of show against Russia, sufficient at all events to weaken the latter and to make her less disposed than before to pursue her policy of aggression, might be reasonably looked for; but that Japan should have shown herself able to repel the formidable "Colossus of the North" both by sea and land, and to steadily gain position after position that seemed impregnable, was very much more than either China or any other nation considered within the bounds of the probable or even the possible. It is, however, this state of affairs which will have to be dealt with diplomatically at the close of the war; and it is of essential importance what attitude China will take up with

regard to it. Her own instincts would be to revert to her old policy of profiting by others' quarrels; and, after allowing the Japanese to do what she herself ought to have done, in checking Russian encroachment, to claim her old sovereignty over Manchuria and to endeavour to get it back both from Russia and Japan. If she succeeded in this policy the present war would be as useless as was the war between China and Japan. The old-standing cause of the difficulties would be unremoved, China would be as weak and as unreliable as ever, and Manchuria would still remain open to invasion; China herself, to threats of invasion, and Japan to the serious menace to her independence, to remove which (when no other means were possible) she went to war.

It may be anticipated that other foreign nations will have something to say in this respect; and their views as a whole will largely influence the policy of China. There can be very little doubt that the interests of foreign nations generally, so far as the furtherance of commerce and the maintenance of peace in the Far East are concerned, lie in the same direction as those of Japan. It is not to their interest, speaking generally, that any one of them should make definite conquests in China, and it may be hoped that the lesson taught by the war with Japan may cause those who may be disposed to a policy of aggression to pause and count the cost. The true policy of foreign nations is to exert their whole influence at Peking (and if they would only loyally combine, that influence would be very great) towards inducing the Chinese to arrive at an understanding with Japan in the first instance, and indirectly with them, such as will preserve the integrity of Manchuria and with it that of China herself. If China insisted upon Japan leaving Manchuria altogether, in the hope that the jealousy between Japan and Russia would enable her to re-assert her dominion over that territory, and should she be able to induce foreign nations to assist her in that course, the old troubles would be certain to arise again. It is quite true that Japan has no more right than Russia in Manchuria, nor, apparently, does she wish to establish her domination there; but she does want some security that the country will not again be left open to be seized by Russia; and in this no one can deny that the interests of all other nations (and the interests of Russia herself, if she rightly understood them) are at one with those of Japan.

HONGKONG CHARITY.

(Daily Press 2nd February.)

We would commend to our readers, and particularly to those who may attend the forthcoming meeting of the Benevolent Society, the scheme of His Excellency the Governor for the relief of destitute and deserving sailors in this Colony. The attitude we have felt obliged to take with regard to the foolish sentiment for and thoughtless encouragement of the beachcomber as a type does not debar us from sympathising with genuine need, and in the scheme unfolded in our correspondence column yesterday we perceive possibilities of ensuring that local philanthropy may reach the maximum of merit with a minimum of waste. Our comments on the beachcomber nuisance have been misunderstood in one quarter, whence the suggestion comes that they tended to benumb and paralyse "the most kindly and noble impulses" of our fellow colonists. There is no need to call such kindly impulses "noble." They are natural, and being so,

do not run much danger of paralysis. What is needed, and this was our chief object, is to see that their gratification follows fair and proper channels, doing good by encouraging the deserving to make a good fight against adversity, and doing no harm to the community at large by encouraging worthless and even dangerous characters. The objection that much of the money subscribed to charity organisations filters away in administrative charges is trite, and not in all cases true. Although correct in many instances, it does not apply to the present scheme, as no part of the sums guaranteed in the manner suggested by Sir MATTHEW NATHAN could be applied to the expenditure of the Benevolent Society. Indeed, the Society will certainly earn its title by undertaking the duty of "getting people to become guarantors" of monies which it must hand over intact, in specified sums, to another institution. The end which both institutions have in view is undoubtedly the same, and if it be correct, as HIS EXCELLENCY thinks, that the Benevolent Society has better opportunities of eliciting support than the Sailors' Home, it would indeed be a gracious act on the part of the former thus to lift up the hands of the latter. One of our correspondents to-day makes the somewhat startling suggestion that sixty dollars is too high a sum to charge for the subsistence of an out-of-work sailor during each month of waiting. As he backs up his assertion by figures, the accuracy or otherwise of which we have not yet had time to investigate, we hope the point he raises will be the subject of serious discussion when the scheme comes under consideration. In reply to a query addressed to him, he said that to the best of his knowledge and belief, the Sailors' Home is not handicapped by a heavy rental, so that, judging superficially, sixty dollars does appear an excessive charge to make, especially in view of the fact that many of the hotels and boarding houses, conducted solely for profit, charge only \$80, while offering in return a cuisine which no recipient of charity, however honest and deserving he may be, has the right to expect. Either there is some legitimate expenditure which our correspondent has failed to take into account, or the Sailors' Home is one of the institutions, already referred to, which fritters away in administrative extravagance monies that should be devoted almost wholly to the real purposes of its foundation. Information on these and other points should be promptly offered to the public, for which purpose we will spare as much of our space as is possible. The suggestion of our other correspondent that the House of Detention is a semi-prison needs, we feel sure, to be greatly qualified; but this point we must reserve for later comment. Returning to the scheme of the GOVERNOR, we are inclined to favour it, not because it is the idea of a man in high place, but because we are convinced of the ability of the Sailors' Home managers to distinguish deserving cases, because we feel strongly that such discrimination is imperatively necessary, and because we have often been told that the authorities of the Sailors' Home have been unable to do all that they wished in numerous cases. The idea of those who think it better to bestow eleemosynary doles upon several undeserving ones rather than to miss helping one deserving, is kind, but impolitic, for reasons that should now be sufficiently obvious, without further elaboration here. Those who persist in giving a dollar here and a dollar there, instead of enquiring into and supporting some such scheme as the one suggested, lay themselves open to a

charge of indifference as culpable or more so than that of the curmudgeon who never gives at all. Far from sharing a "noble impulse," they are ignobly gratifying a natural one in an ignobly lazy manner, throwing alms to the beggar because it is less trouble than to refuse, and much less trouble than to write a note to those who make it their business to see that charity is judiciously exercised. No one will deny that an order for food is a more sensible gift than a coin that may be, and too often is, spent on something needed less; but one involves trouble, and the other doesn't. Such indolent benevolence blesses neither him that takes nor him that gives, and is a positive injustice to those who give more wisely, and to the place to which bad characters are thereby attracted.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONS.

(Daily Press, 3rd February.)

The revolution in Russia is by no means a brand-new agitation. We have been lately told, by Russians, that it is the work of the Russian duplicate of our Little En land party, that it has its beginning in the current war, that it is being carried out by worthless characters, in the pay of Russia's enemies, and so on. The Church, as in duty it feels bound, is on the side of constituted authority. In the absence of trustworthy information to the contrary, we assumed FATHER GAPON to be an enthusiastic young fool, a visionary, with impossible dreams of a Russian millennium. The Holy Synod calls him "a criminal priest," whatever that may mean; but his conduct in espousing such a dangerous cause should be taken as evidence at least of sincerity. The Holy Synod also takes up the tale of the "civil war" being inspired by enemies without, to handicap Russia in her struggle with Japan; and assures the Russian strikers that they are disobeying "God's commands" as well as the Emperor's. The connection between the Russo-Japanese war and Russia's internal colic can be made apparent only in the theory that the persecuted mice have discovered that the best time to play is when the cat is busy elsewhere. Otherwise, the desire to play is an old standing one, and the outside enemies of Russia have nothing to do with the present outbreak. Japan will regret it rather than rejoice at it, for in affording Russia such an excellent excuse for failure in Manchuria, it tends to minimise the triumph of the Japanese forces. So long ago as 1857, and, for all we know, long before that—but certainly in 1857, an agitation for a Russian constitution was recorded. It arose in consequence of the attempt of ALEXANDER II. to emancipate the serfs; and curiously enough, as in the case of our own Magna Charta, the first move came from the nobles. In exchange for the surrender of their feudal rights, the nobles demanded a constitution. Shortly afterwards, there was a proposal that the nation at large should be allowed to declare its will by means of elected representatives, but ALEXANDER II. considered that the embryo Parliament would be unwieldy in point of numbers and probably disorderly for lack of experience in public business. Debates would generate, it was thought, a class friction that would be altogether insupportable, so a compromise was effected in the election of forty-six provincial committees consisting of land-owners. These committees were entrusted with the discussion of the emancipation scheme, and the preparation of reports for a "Formulating Commission." It was four years later that ALEXANDER II.

gave utterance to the famous aphorism that "Liberation without land has always ended in an increase of the proprietor's arbitrary power." He had in mind the effect in such instances as that of NAPOLEON's emancipation of the peasants in Poland, and of our own experiment in freeing the American negroes. For "proprietor" read "capitalist," and the EMPEROR's saying hits off with some justice the status of our own teeming masses at Home, before Trades Unions grew and multiplied so as to adjust the balance of tyranny, and even to sway it somewhat to the other extreme. As we have briefly indicated in a previous article, ALEXANDER's well-laid scheme went wrong, owing to the success of the conservatives on the Commission, who managed to curtail the allotments while increasing the valuations by which they were to be gradually redeemed. The Imperial scheme had been hailed with such a flourish of trumpets: the Press, upon which the embargo had been temporarily relaxed, ranted in Utopian strains of political freedom and general prosperity: and when the expected all turned out to be an inch, the seeds of the present agitation were undoubtedly planted in by no means stony ground. The temperament of the Slav is volatile, impressionable, prone to sentiments and ideals, like the French. There was a general uprising in May, 1861, and riotous demonstrations by University students in October of the same year. "Land and Liberty" was the title of a revolutionary journal widely circulated in secret. In June 1862 there was another big uprising, on exactly similar lines to the present one, and in the same places. Then as now the troops indulged in licensed butchery. In 1863, the year of the Polish rebellion, MURAVIEV's severity in Lithuania shocked the world, whole towns being given up to fire and pillage by Imperial troops. Ever since, the trouble has been an almost annual recurrence. It is a shock to be told to-day by REUTER that six thousand Parisians have met to denounce the events taking place in Russia, seeing that it was French philosophers who gave birth to nihilism in the eighteenth century; and the temporary success of the Paris Commune in 1871 that fanned it into fiercer flame in Russia. Nihilism killed itself by its own violent excesses, but revolution remained in the air. When the present TSAR received his first deputation in January 1895, the party that had come to do homage hinted that the *zemstvo* was only the germ of representative institutions. His reference to the teaching of his English tutor, HEATH, that "a man's happiness may be measured by the amount of happiness which he confers on others," perhaps encouraged them. They were told then, what we have been told lately, that the principle of autocracy is to be maintained. Whether it should or should not be maintained is a question with which we are not immediately concerned. Whether it can be maintained is another. The Russian Government is not fighting a dissatisfied political clique; it is fighting the modern *weltgeist*, the universal array of ideals which are more terrible politically than an army with banners. The Russian protestant has always been bullied or cajoled into quiescence in the past. It is merely a question how much longer he will be in making up his mind what he wants, with sufficient clearness to cause the struggle to be less spasmodic and more determined.

Mr. G. S. V. Bidwell, foreman of the Mui-loong, has been elected Chief Engineer of the Shanghai Fire Brigade in the place of Mr. K. W. Campbell, resigned. There were three nominees for the post, Messrs. E. Lemiére and H. B. Emerson being the other two.

THE GOVERNOR'S SCHEME.

(Dealy Press, 4th February.)

There is a big lot of misinformation to be acquired in Hongkong, which is easily obtained by those who are sufficiently confiding, and ask plenty of questions. We have recently had the benefit of a share of it, in connection with our desire to know more about the Sailors' Home. We have been told that it is a mismanaged charity, a well-managed charity, and that it is not a charity at all, but a self supporting institution. But for one or two scraps of evidence which have reached us from trustworthy sources, we should now be worried by doubts of the existence of any such institution at all. But there it is, and our latest information is to the effect that it is likely to continue, irrespective altogether of the scheme of the GOVERNOR, for the objects of its care have to bear the cost, and its surplus for helping those who cannot do so is carefully hoarded. His EXCELLENCY's scheme, of which we approved, does not in any way affect the constitution of the Home, and it appears that its critics cannot have regarded it in the only way in which we thought it could be regarded, namely, a scheme for preventing "deserving cases of destitution" from being turned away in consequence of their inability to deposit the necessary sum. We do not agree with His EXCELLENCY that such deserving cases are likely to be "many," and as a matter of opinion, we usually suspect that a destitute person is so by his own fault. Still, the possibility of real deserts being overlooked was one for which we were prepared to share the "noble impulses" of the sentimentalists, and in the GOVERNOR's scheme we saw only a method of allowing the Sailors' Home to go a little beyond its present province, and to help, where it might wish to help, those unable to help themselves. A "barbaric yawp" in one of our evening contemporaries accuses us of encouraging shiftless beachcombers, in the very article in which we tried to emphasise the value of the scheme on the ground that by filtering its charity through two institutions, it was less likely to let it go to undeserving cases. The GOVERNOR's scheme is expressly conditional—"should the case be a meritorious one, &c." To a destitute European, even \$1.15 a day is too high a payment. If he be an honest man, a deserving case, and not a professional wastrel and idler, the fund provided by those who approve Sir MATTHEW NATHAN's scheme will save him from having to associate with the all sorts and conditions for whom the House of Detention is provided. There would not be heavy demands on the fund, because the Sailors' Home would continue charging those who have money, while it would only allow destitutes to go on the fund after searching enquiry. That is how the scheme appears to us, and we see no chance of its encouraging beachcombers. If it did, we should denounce it as strenuously as we could, for all the beachcombers in Hongkong who deserve it have not been hanged yet. Really, there are no details of the scheme that need discussion. The scheme is barely a scheme—it is a request that an Institution which is supposed to have the ear of the philanthropic public should do a little extra begging. The details merely constitute a method for regulating the order in which the guarantors are to be called upon, so that if A. promises two, and B. one, B's one will be drawn upon before A's second. The Sailors' Home will not oppose, for to them it simply means that instead of rejecting JOHN DOE who

cannot pay, they accept him when RICHARD ROE pays for him. It is the Benevolent Society only which might object, for by agreeing they gain nothing more than an enhanced reputation for benevolence. If they do object, their only ground can be that it saddles their officers with extra trouble, while adding nothing to their present ability to help the particular cases to which they are devoting their attention. The "sixty dollars a month" point of one of our correspondents has been disposed of; and for the rest of the foolish comments we have noticed, as they mostly betray a stupid blindness to the main issue, we need not discuss them.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 27th January

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

Chan So sued A. Hughes for \$97. Mr. Almada e Castro appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant was absent. His Honour gave judgment and costs for the plaintiff.

The trustees of the property of the Po Fung Bank sued the Cheung Loong firm for \$505.98. Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Almada e Castro for the defendant firm. Mr. Almada e Castro consented to judgment, but asked that execution be stayed for ten days. This was allowed.

The Colonial Treasurer sued Chu Hing Chun for \$1.9 (rates). Mr. Bonnar (of the Crown Solicitor's office) appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant was absent. His Honour gave plaintiff judgment with costs.

W. Brewer & Co. sued Porchet Bovet & Co. for \$161.85. The defendant firm was not represented. Mr. George Richardson told His Honour that the defendants had paid \$100 on account since the writ had been issued, and judgment was given for \$61.85, the balance and costs.

The Robinson Piano Co., Ltd., sued James Christie for \$99.60 for tuning and repairing the pianos in the Praya East Hotel and the Metropole Hotel. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton's office) consented to judgment, which was given, with costs.

Saturday, 28th January.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

In the case of Lau Kuk Chow, ex parte Chiu Hok Lam, the father of the debtor applied for an order on the Official Receiver for the return of \$3,500. This he had deposited to save his son from going into bankruptcy, before his son actually did go into bankruptcy. Mr. Bailey appeared on behalf of the Official Receiver to oppose the petition, and Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) for the petitioner. His Lordship made the order applied for.

Mr. J. Hays (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for Messrs. Lauts Wegner and Co. in the case of the Hang On firm ex parte Lauts Wegner and Co. It was an application for adjudication. His Lordship made an order appointing the Official Receiver trustee.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the debtor in the case of Li Ng alias Li Ho U ex parte the debtor, an application for adjudication. His Lordship made an order appointing the Official Receiver trustee.

Monday, 30th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

SAYCE V. NOMURA.

Mr. D. V. Steavenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the plaintiff

in this case; the defendant was absent. The plaintiff sought to recover eight cases of dates valued at \$100, handed by him to the defendant for sale on commission, or money less commission for sale of same, or part money less commission and part dates. Mr. Steavenson asked permission to amend the writ so as to make it read "the value of" instead of "the dates." This was refused, but His Honour allowed him to add the words "or the value." Mr. Almada e Castro then appeared for the defendant. He said that his client was prepared to return the dates. The case was adjourned so as to give plaintiff time to inspect same.

Tuesday, 31st January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

LEUNG YEE V. H. NORONHA.

The plaintiff claimed \$484.84 from the defendant, on a promissory note. Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. D. V. Steavenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) was for the defendant.

Mr. Steavenson—My defence is that the man Leung Yee is not the man to whom the money is due.

The defendant—I am assistant in Noronha and Co. I borrowed \$180 from Leung in 1901. I signed a promissory note—that note—in January, 1904. Leung gave me that note, into which all my previous borrowings from him, and interest, were merged. The man I borrowed the money from is dead. I was applied to for money to pay the funeral expenses. I paid some money, though I cannot say the amount—I think it was \$30 or \$35.

Cross-examined—I never saw the plaintiff till December last. He demanded payment, and I said I did not know him. I did not ask him for further time. The father died shortly after this note was signed. I knew the father only by the name of Leung, and did not notice that this promissory note was signed Leung Yee I see it now.

His Honour—The plaintiff comes here and says "I am Leung Yee and I lent the defendant money." The other side says "I received money from one Leung, not the plaintiff." I am thrown back on this document which bears the name of Leung Yee, and there is no evidence that the plaintiff is not the person he represents himself to be. Judgment and costs.

Wednesday, 1st February.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

KUHN AND KOMOR V. T. D. ADDIS.

This was a claim for \$320, and \$30.44 costs. Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared for the plaintiffs; while the defendant, said to be at Calcutta, was not represented. In April 1903 the defendant purchased on approval two ivory tusks from the plaintiffs, and had them sent to Calcutta. The tusks were neither paid for nor returned. A writ was served on the defendant in Calcutta, but he did not appear. Judgment from the Supreme Court of Hongkong was now applied for, so that the plaintiffs might take steps to recover their loss.

His Honour gave judgment and costs.

LAU WAN KUT V. TSUI KWAI.

In this action the plaintiff claimed \$210, damages, and \$17.70 costs, the damages being value of the deficiency of certain goods which the defendant undertook to carry from Chan Tsun to Hongkong. Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendant.

Mr. Harding—This action against the junk is to recover damages for non-delivery of a portion of goods entrusted for carriage by a *Shing Lee* junk, of which the defendant is the owner. There were a hundred jars of goods, the contents of each jar weighing fifty catties—five thousand catties in all—and the value was \$10.50 per picul (\$525 altogether). These goods were put

on board for safe carriage to Hongkong. The junk arrived here on the morning of the 12th January. We got notice that the goods had arrived on the following day.

His Honour—What were the goods?

Mr. Harding—Rice. As Your Lordship knows, the Chinese Government does not want rice to be exported from the country, so the rice in question was put up in jars and styled chit choy (a dark coloured turnip). The defendant and plaintiff arranged together.

His Honour—Rice came down under the cloak of turnips for Customs purposes?

Mr. Harding—Yes. When my client was informed that the goods arrived he at once made arrangements to bring them on shore to the Tai Loi Shin shop. Before the goods were removed from the junk the attention of the master was called by the boatman to some of the jars being light and some heavy. The other replied that this was no business of his. Immediately the goods arrived in the shop the attention of the plaintiff was called to the fact that some were light. The plaintiff thereupon opened the top of one of the jars and found that a lot of rice had been removed. He then went to the junk and asked the master to come on shore and see the rice weighed. The man declined to do so. The jars were then opened in the presence of witnesses, and it was found that ninety-six out of the hundred jars had holes made through the baskets and jars, evidently to allow the rice to leak out. By weighing the rice the plaintiff found a deficiency of 2,182.12 catties, which, valued at \$10.50 per catty, was \$229.19. At that time the plaintiff was still owner of the rice, but he was under a contract to deliver it at the Tai Loi Shin shop. The plaintiff saw the goods on the junk and then came to Hongkong. He was the consignee.

Evidence was led.

The case was adjourned.

Thursday, 2nd February.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE.)

LAU WAN KUT V. TSUI KWAI.

Hearing resumed in this action, in which the plaintiff claimed \$210, damages, and \$17.70 costs, the damages being value of the deficiency of certain goods which the defendant undertook to carry from Chan Tsun to Hongkong. Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. F. C. Master (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) for the defendant.

The plaintiff having closed his case, witnesses were called for the defence. The junk master said:—I did not know the plaintiff's cargo was rice; we are not allowed to carry rice out of China. On the 10th ult., when we got as far as Capsuimun, some rice leaked out. There was a strong wind which made the junk heel over and the cargo shift. Lo Sz, a man in my employ, receives and delivers general cargo. Rice is not included in general cargo, and Lo had no authority to receive rice. He knew that such act was breaking the law. If I had known that rice was on board before I left Chan Tsun I should have refused to carry it. As the freight for turnips is six candareens per picul, the freight for five thousand catties would be about Tls. 3. During the bad weather at Capsuimun two jars fell overboard, and several ounces escaped from other jars. Lo saw the cargo on shore at Hongkong.

By the Court—I was on board during the unloading.

Witness continuing—Lo received the freight. By the Court—It went into my pocket afterwards.

Witness continuing—The purchase price of rice is a little over Tls. 2 per picul. I was never told that some of these jars were broken, nor that some of the rice was missing. There was not room for all the jars in the hold.

By the Court—About fifty of the hundred jars were stowed on deck and the remainder in the hold. Those on deck were covered with matting.

Witness continuing—The jars could not have been tampered with on my junk. I do not

know whether or not they were broken, as they were in baskets.

Cross-examined—I generally ask Lo about cargo, and did question him about these hundred baskets. He said they were turnips, but did not show me the manifest then, and I did not ask him for it. The freight is always the same.

Mr. Harding—When did you first know that the freight was going to be \$75?

Witness—When we got to Capsuimun and the rice fell out. I said to Lo that he was cheating me. I had to deliver these goods at Hongkong. I did not speak to the man who came to take delivery. Someone came off on the 12th and spoke to my supercargo and I overheard the conversation. The stranger said we could not ask for so much freight, and the other replied, "We have broken the law." On the 10th ult. at Capsuimun I told Lo to write \$70 on the envelope.

His Honour—There has been ratification.

In adjourning the case His Honour, addressing the plaintiff, who is a Canton resident, said:—Will you have recovered from the China New Year by Tuesday morning?

The plaintiff nodded his head.

CHAN CHIK HI TONG V. LI KOK U AND TWO OTHERS.

This claim was for \$1,000. Mr. Almada e Castro, appearing for the plaintiff, said:—The defendants were partners, and the debt was incurred before the partnership was dissolved.

The second and third defendants admitted the debt. In reply to His Honour asking the first defendant if he also admitted it, the man replied:—I do not know; I have gone into bankruptcy now and have no money.

His Honour—Judgment and costs against the second and third defendants. The proceedings against the first defendant stayed.

SAYCE V. NOMURA.

Mr. D. V. Steavenson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) again appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Almada e Castro for the defendant. The plaintiff sought to recover eight cases of dates, valued at \$100, handed by him to the defendant for sale, or their value. The defendant returned the dates, but the plaintiff said that now they were not in a saleable condition and therefore he would not receive them. In the witness-box the plaintiff said:—I had eight cases of dates for five months, and then, in June 1904, gave them to the defendant to sell. The dates (sample produced) are now spoiled. Here (produced) are samples of good dates. There are now only seven and a half cases of dates.

Cross-examined—The good dates are of a different brand to the bad ones. I have had the good dates two months. I cannot say that my shop is damp.

The defendant—In June 1904 the plaintiff gave me eight boxes of dates to send to Japan. I did not examine the contents of the cases. It was a friendly agreement, I receiving no commission. No time was fixed within which the dates were to be sold. On the 1st September I left for Japan, having first seen Mr. Sayce. I said to him I was going to Japan, would try my best to sell them. Sayce asked for security. I was not able to sell the dates. I arrived back at Hongkong on the 30th December, and Sayce saw me on the 4th January. He said he would take legal proceedings. The dates arrived back at Hongkong on the 17th December, before me. Half a case must have been used as samples, and therefore only seven and a half cases arrived back at Hongkong.

Cross-examined—My consignee in Japan said it was very hard to sell the goods.

Mr. Steavenson—Why did you not tell him to send them back to Hongkong?

His Honour—Why did you not send them to Port Arthur? (Laughter).

Witness—I told him to send them back in October. I told all my friends in Japan that they were good dates, but they did not want them. I saw samples of the dates in Japan: they looked spoiled. The consignee told me the dates were spoiled and the cardboard boxes were stained. I did not get the bill of lading for them on my return to Hongkong till about the 20th January.

His Honour—The question arises as to whether the defendant wantonly detained these goods, and of course if he has done so he is

liable for damage to them. Before handing them to the defendant the plaintiff already had them in the Colony for five months during the worst months in the year. Originally these dates were handed to the defendant to be sold without commission—quite friendly—and there is no evidence that any time was fixed in which the defendant had to either sell or return them. When the defendant was going to Japan the plaintiff demanded security. The defendant refused, and I do not see why he should have done otherwise. On arriving at Japan he found the dates musty, and not in a good condition. I think I may presume that if these dates were saleable the Japanese, who have a sweet tooth like others, would have bought them. If they were not marketable October, November or December would be as reasonable, the one as the other, for returning them. Judgment for the defendant and costs.

COMPANIES.

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LD.

SIXTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING.

The sixteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the company, Victoria Buildings, on Jan. 30th. The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Sir C. P. Chater, Messrs. A. J. Raymond, N. A. Siebs, E. Shellim, H. P. White and A. Haupt (Directors), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, (Secretary), and Messrs. W. H. Gaskell, F. E. Georg, Capt. F. D. Goddard, E. H. Hinds, C. W. May, S. J. Michael, M. S. Northcote, J. Orange and W. Parlance.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen,—From the report and accounts for the year 1904, which have been in your possession for some days, and which with your permission I will take as read, you will have learned that to pay the same dividend that you have for some time received, it has, to the regret of our directors, again been necessary to withdraw from the equalization of dividend fund the sum of \$250,000. This fund now stands in the balance sheet at \$250,000, the same amount as in the year 1901, when you authorised the transfer from earnings of a sum of \$500,000, with a view to maintaining a steady dividend. It is the opinion of your directors that for the future dividends should be in accordance with the net earnings of the year, and that this account should not be encroached upon to any great extent in one year, and I trust this recommendation may meet with your approval. Turning to the accounts, I desire to draw your attention to our two chief sources of income and compare them for the past three years. Under the head of interest the net earnings in 1902 were \$156,607.93; in 1903, \$98,765.89; and in 1904, \$53,400.92. This regular falling off is brought about by the withdrawal of funds invested on mortgage and now used in the development of the Company's properties, the more important of which are only beginning to yield revenue, and as time goes on interest account will practically disappear from the balance sheet. Formerly we invested in mortgage our surplus capital, and later re-invested money which we had been enabled to borrow at a lower rate of interest than our mortgage rate; so now, instead of reaping the benefit of interest coming in from the mortgage, we have for a time had the money invested in property temporarily unproductive. The cost of development of the large European hongs on the Reclamation between Blake Pier and Queen's Buildings amounts to \$1,413,182.48. The property consists of five blocks of buildings, one of which was only completed last June, another last November, whilst the other three will not yield us any revenue until next July. The comparative statement of rents for the same three years is as follows:—1902, \$217,103.86; 1903, \$250,026.66; 1904, \$273,909.37. In relation to this last sum, the rent account for the current year we trust will show a marked improvement, not only on account of the revenue

from the newly developed properties, a great many of which we have already agreed to lease, but we also have hopes of being able to find tenants for the large number of vacancies we have in our Chinese properties. These vacancies represent approximately an unearned rental of \$70,000 to \$80,000, and it is difficult to reconcile this deficiency with the Government complaint of overcrowding in certain districts. On the other side of the account there is nothing calling for special comment, the small increase in charges and fire insurance premia being about equalised by the saving in repairs. The existing stringency in our local money market does not lead your directors to anticipate in the immediate future any extensive operations in property, but with the increased receipts already referred to, they have hopes that the earnings of the company for the current year will prove satisfactory. Before formally proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions in connection with them that any shareholder may wish to ask.

Mr. GEORG—Am I correct in surmising that the interest on all these properties has been paid out of the working capital, or are they paid out of the original running capital which has been written up?

The CHAIRMAN—The properties you have asked about stand in our books at the original cost. If there are no other questions I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. ORANGE—In seconding I should like to say that a few years ago the Company had a very good year. It was then a great foresight on the part of the Board to reserve a fund on account of the reclamation blocks on the Praya, for it is clear that a good many years must elapse before they are capable of earning anything. We must congratulate the Board. The increase of rentals must strengthen us. I must say, though, regarding the diminution of mortgage, that this Company should be able to demand a good deal of money in this way. When one considers the Company is constantly dealing in land, and is in close touch with landed properties and others, it should know where to invest money at splendid security. I am sorry to say there does not seem any inclination on the part of banks to lend money.

The report and accounts were put to the meeting and adopted.

Mr. ROSE—I beg to propose the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. H. P. White and A. Haupt as Directors.

Mr. HINDS—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

Mr. GASKELL—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. A. Haupt and E. Shellim as directors.

CAPT. GODDARD—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

Mr. GEORG—I have much pleasure in proposing the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and C. W. May as auditors.

Mr. PARLANE—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning.

THE WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

SIXTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING.

The sixteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the West Point Building Company, Limited, was held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on Jan. 30th. Sir A. P. Chater (chairman) presided, and there were also present the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. A. J. Raymond (Directors), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Ltd., and General Agent for the West Point Building Company, Limited), Capt. F. D. Goddard, Messrs. J. M. Graca, A. Haupt, L. S. Lewis, C. W. May, H. N. Mody, J. Orange and M. S. Northcote.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen,—With your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. The balance from the year's working

is practically the same as that for the previous year, and so we propose to pay the same dividend, viz. \$3.20 per share for the whole year. As I stated at our last general meeting, the directors decided to accept the best offer for leasing the property at the expiration of the present lease, and I am now pleased to be able to inform you that from the 1st April next the monthly rent roll of the Company's property will be increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per month. The property is kept in good condition, but the requirements of the Sanitary Board and Building Authorities constantly entail large outlays for its upkeep. If any shareholder wishes for further information, I shall be pleased to give it before moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

There being no questions I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. HAUPT—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

Mr. LEWIS—I beg to propose the confirmation of the appointment of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson as director.

Mr. H. N. MODY—I beg to second.

Carried.

Mr. ORANGE—I beg to propose the re-election of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. A. J. Raymond as directors.

Mr. MAY—I beg to second.

Carried.

CAPT. GODDARD—I beg to propose the re-election of Mr. C. W. May as auditor.

Mr. GRACA—I have pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow on application.

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING CO., LD.

SIXTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING.

The sixteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company, Victoria Buildings, on Jan. 30th. Mr. T. F. Hough (Chairman) presided, others present being Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper (Secretary), A. Rodger, W. H. Gaskell, M. S. Northcote, E. B. Shepherd, Capt. F. D. Goddard, S. J. Michael and E. J. Hughes.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen—With your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. As you will observe from our accounts the net profits for the past year's working show a marked improvement and enable us to declare a dividend of \$3, as against \$2.60 the previous year, and we see no reason why the return for the coming year should not be so good. Following the suggestion of the shareholders at the last general meeting, the articles of association have been altered so as to enable the directors to draw a total sum of \$500 instead of \$150 for their yearly services. Advantage was taken of the opportunity at the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to amend the article which required two auditors, by making it necessary to have the accounts audited by one only. The whole of the property is well let and kept up in good condition. I do not think I can usefully add any further remarks, but before adopting the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions which may be put.

There being no questions I now propose the adoption of the report and accounts which have been circulated among the shareholders.

CAPT. GODDARD—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

Mr. MICHAEL—I beg to propose the confirmation of Mr. A. Rodger's appointment as a director.

Mr. SHEPHERD—I beg to second.

Carried.

Mr. NORTHCOTE—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and T. F. Hough as directors.

CAPT. GODDARD—I have much pleasure in seconding.

Carried.

Mr. HUGHES—I beg to propose the re-election of Mr. T. Arnold as auditor.

Mr. MICHAEL—I beg to second.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

HUMPHREY'S ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LD.

The report of the directors for the year ending 31st December, 1904, for presentation to the shareholders at the nineteenth ordinary annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, Alexandra Buildings, Des Vœux Road, at noon on Friday, the 10th February, 1905.

Gentlemen,—The directors now beg to submit to you their report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1904.

The net profit for that period amounts to \$135,757.48
To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account... .. 9,177.04

\$144,934.52

And from this have to be deducted—

Remuneration to directors
5 per cent. commission on
net profits \$6,787.87

Remuneration to general
managers commission on
net profits 6,787.87

13,575.74

Leaving available for appropriation \$131,358.78

The directors recommend that a dividend of 90 cents per share on the fully paid-up shares and 22½ cents per share on the \$2.50 paid-up shares or nine per cent. on the paid-up capital be paid to the shareholders, absorbing \$119,400.75 and that the balance of \$1,958.03 be carried to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. C. Ewens having resigned, J. Scott Harston was invited to fill the vacancy and accepted a seat on the Board. In accordance with rule 76 of the articles of association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, J. Scott Harston, H. W. Slade, A. G. Wood and Ho Tung retiro, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and W. Hutton Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY HUMPHREYS,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1905.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ending 31st December, 1904.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account:—			
126,890 shares at \$10 each	\$1,268,900		
23,110 shares at \$2.50 each	57,775		
	1,326,675.00		
Insurance reserve fund	203,994.24		
Fund for equalisation of dividends	50,000.00		
Sundry creditors	91,498.63		
Unclaimed dividends	3,079.00		
Profit and loss account:—			
Amount carried forward from 1903	\$ 9,177.04		
For the year 1904	135,757.48		
	144,934.52		
	\$1,820,181.39		
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Amount invested in property	1,053,285.05		
Amount invested on mortgage	674,421.90		
Accounts receivable	85,241.32		
Office furniture	528.00		
Fire insurance premia unexpired	127.08		
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and in hand	6,578.04		
	\$1,820,181.39		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec., 1904.	Dr.	\$	c.
To fire insurance premia		4,801.02	
To Crown rent		3,263.28	
To general charges		2,976.54	
To allowance to General Managers to cover office rent and salaries of secretary and clerks		8,000.00	
To repairs		2,858.60	
To auditors' fees		250.00	
To balance		144,934.52	
		\$167,083.96	

1st Jan., 1904.	Cr.	\$	c.
By amount carried forward from 1903		9,177.04	
31st Dec., 1904.			
By rents		67,626.61	
By interest		55,744.01	
By exchange		7,152.59	
By transfer fees		293.00	
By commission		242.48	
By profits on sales of properties		26,848.25	
		\$167,083.96	

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LIMITED.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The general managers have pleasure in submitting a statement of the company's accounts for the year 1904.

Including \$5,844.57 brought forward from the previous year, and after deducting \$20,000 paid as an interim dividend of \$4 per share, the balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$103,356.77 which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend of \$13 per share	\$65,000.00
Provision for contingencies	25,000.00
To write off property A/c.	8,000.00
To carry forward	5,356.77
	\$103,356.77

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

The accounts are as follows:—

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Property account		108,000.00	
Extension account		66,367.98	
Invested in:—			
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s share		225.00	
China Fire Insurance Co.'s share		85.00	
Canton Insurance Office's share		120.00	
Cash on hand		313.98	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on current account		29,825.82	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on deposit		70,000.00	
Outstanding accounts		7,092.70	
Accounts receivable		719.60	
Ice in stock		180.00	
Coal in stock		496.00	
Fire insurance, unexpired premium		128.64	
		\$183,554.22	
LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital		125,000.00	
Accounts payable		10,776.35	
Ammonia reserve account		9,421.10	
Provision for contingencies		35,000.00	
Profit and loss account		103,356.77	
		\$283,554.22	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
To salaries, wages, and general office expenses	35,361.35	
To General Managers' commission	2,000.00	
To auditor's fee	150.00	
	37,511.35	
To interim dividend of 16 per cent. paid on 2nd August, 1904	20,000.00	
To balance	103,356.77	
	\$160,871.12	
By balance brought forward from last year	5,844.57	
By receipts for ice and cold storage	150,855.72	
By rents received (less Crown rent and taxes paid)	2,318.76	
By interest	1,839.07	
By transfer fees	13.00	
	\$160,871.12	

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

1st February, 1905.

A GOOD STORY.

Just about the end of the year, creditors expect their debtors to settle all accounts, so as to begin "square" in the new year. When the debtors will not, or cannot pay, the creditors, in order to enforce the quicker settlement of their accounts, will sometimes go themselves or send their poor relatives to the debtor's house to sleep and eat until the debt is paid. Here is the story of how one debtor defeated the plan of his creditors. A man named Chan, who keeps a shop in Ho Pun Street, sued his debtors Chow and others at the mandarin

yamen for a debt of a few thousand dollars. Palm oil reached the mandarin Chan, and the plaintiff not only lost his case, but had to pay the defendant \$1,500. He went home infuriated, determined not to pay. What did the defendants do? They hired and sent about a dozen women, old and young, to his shop to eat and sleep there, of course at the expense of the plaintiff, and to make as much noise as they could. After standing this for a day or two the plaintiff quietly hired six or seven lepers to stay in his shop. The women cleared off then.

LOST HIS HEAD.

A native by name Wong Ngah Chew for falsely pretending to be a Japanese and a Roman Catholic, thereby committing fraud, interfering in matter of law, and complaining against the mandarins, was arrested in Sam Sui, tried before the Nam Hoi Magistrate, and sentenced to capital punishment. A few days ago he was tied hand and foot, and carried to the execution ground and decapitated.

CHINESE JUSTICE.

A woman, Li Mak She, of middle age, short and thin, has undergone the most cruel and barbarous punishment of *lingtsz*, by being tied to a cross and cut into slices, for having killed her husband and mother-in-law by rat-poison.

A PANIC.

Canton is experiencing severe cold just now. It is snowing, and mendicants are dying of cold and hunger. On account of the rumour that a number of firms in Hongkong are on the brink of insolvency, commercial credit here has been considerably shaken. Indeed, the merchants were in something like a panic, until a few leading merchants came up from Hongkong and assured them that they would be responsible in necessary cases.

HONGKONG COLLEGE OF MEDICINE FOR CHINESE.

At the Legislative Council Chambers on the 27th Jan. H.E. the Governor presented diplomas to successful students of this college. Among those present were: Dr. Francis Clark (Dean), Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Rector), Dr. J. C. Thomson (Sec. and Treasurer), Hon. Dr. Ho Kai (Rector's Assessor), Drs. Peares, Gimlett, Atkinson, Hunter, Barnett, and Bateson Wright, Hon. Mr. Brewin, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, and Messrs. David Wood (Auditor), J. Dyer Ball, G. Pieroy, A. Ramjahn, Young Hee, Tsoi Kwai Ng, Tong Lai Chum and Woo Ai Chan.

Dr. CLARK, in calling upon His Excellency to present the diplomas, said:

Your Excellency, I have the honour to present to you four students of the Hongkong College of Medicine for Chinese, who have, after five years of real hard work, earned the proud distinction of becoming Licentiates of that College. The profession of Medicine is one that calls for many high qualities on the part of its votaries, and it is our earnest hope that these gentlemen will worthily maintain the honour and dignity of their calling; that they will be exemplary in the discharge of their civil duties; that they will not look upon their admission to our ranks solely as a means of earning a livelihood—though truly the labourer is worthy of his hire in this as in all other earnest work—but rather that they will remember that it is their especial privilege to extend relief and consolation to their fellow creatures in the hour of their affliction; and, lastly that they will assist in spreading the light of learning among their countrymen, whose eyes have yet to be opened to many of the marvellous truths of modern science. We have much to learn from that ancient nation whose vast Empire lies beside us, for are they not models of patience and industry for all the world to imitate? But in the matter of the relief of human suffering the East has lagged sadly behind the West, and though the Asian pharmacopeia contained many of the most potent drugs now known to Western Science for long years before their names even were known to us, yet their use has been hampered and impeded by all that overgrowth of mysticism, astrology, and superstition from which the more robust thought of our own nation has long since shaken itself free. Yet we must not think that China's leaders are altogether indifferent to the onward progress of science, for did not one of the

greatest of her sons, the late Li Hung Chang, write to us in 1887 that "He hoped Chemistry and Anatomy would form a large and particular part of the training we meant to give." We have not yet done all that we wish to do in the direction of the teaching of Anatomy from the cadaver, but we have gone I think as far as we can go under present conditions, and now we only await a College building for the more efficient training of our students, especially in the subjects of Anatomy and Chemistry, the former of which requires a dissecting-room and the latter a well equipped laboratory, and I think I may say that this is already beginning to take shape on paper, although we have not yet reached the more practical stage of bricks and mortar. The College has now forty students attending its courses of lectures, which is double the number of students that we had only five years ago, and this ever-increasing pressure on our space renders it necessary that we should materialize our ideals, and with this aim in view we hope at no distant date to awaken the sympathies and loosen the purse-strings of our many friends here, and in China, and at Home, and thus add one more movement to those which already testify so loudly to the marvellous progress and stability of our colony.

After the presentation of diplomas to Messrs. An Sz Chan, Ma Luk, E. L. de Souza and To Ying Kwan, His EXCELLENCY said:—It gives me much pleasure to hand licences to the gentlemen you have presented to me, Mr. Dean, and I congratulate them on having entered and qualified in a profession which has for its noble aims the saving of life and the diminution of human suffering.

The Hon. Mr. MAY said: Your Excellency—On behalf of the Hongkong Chinese College of Medicine, I beg to tender you our thanks for coming here to-day. We know how much demand is made on your time at this season of the year, and appreciate your presence all the more.

LI SHING SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE.

PERTINENT COMPARISONS.

The closing exercises and prize distribution in connection with this college took place at No. 66, Queen's Road, Central, on the 28th January, when there was a large attendance of Chinese. The programme was long and varied, including humorous recitations, addresses and debates, which helped to pass away a pleasant evening.

At its conclusion Mr. W. N. Fong, M.A., President of the College, read the first annual report, which stated:—

One of the reasons why China is so far behind Western nations in progress is because she still clings to the antiquated methods of her forefathers in all lines of industry. The founders of the Li Shing College realize that the only way to raise China from her present low industrial condition is to educate her sons in modern science and industry, training them to use their hands as well as their brains. Our aim is to fit our students to be Captains of Industry, to make them capable of directing manufacture, and through them to train and uplift the masses. One of the most pitiful sights in the Orient is the vast expenditure of energy with so meagre a result. The Chinese have strength, endurance and willingness to work. What they lack is method. That is what this College aims to supply. We are desirous that our graduates should not only be able to use foreign machinery mechanically, but that they should understand the physical principles that underlie the construction of machinery so that they may be able to set up machinery and repair it, as well as to operate. We hope to train independent workers and not mere "hands" to be always under the direction of foreigners.

Our aim is not to turn out classical scholars, but to fit men for actual work in life. Whatever doubts may exist in the minds of others as to what line of work should be taught in their respective schools in Hongkong, we are happy to say that our path lies clear-cut before us, and that we believe, with President Jordan of Stanford University, that the world stands aside and makes

way for the man who knows whither he is going. Of course, we realize the necessity of a broad foundation. We appreciate the value of history and geography as well as of English and mathematics to the industrial as well as to the literary student, and bitter, indeed, was our disappointment, when we came to this Colony, to find that not one of the many students who applied for admission to our College was able to pass a satisfactory examination in the subjects which have so long been taught here. During the past year, our work in the English department has been largely preparatory. This is not, however, the work we came to do, and we intend to quit it as soon as our own and other schools shall have students prepared for College work proper.

In our Chinese department, we found better material. Chinese scholars came to us from many districts and we were able at once to open scientific classes in the Chinese language. We find, however, that when we depend entirely upon Chinese translations for scientific work, we soon come to the end of our rope, and that it is only the English-speaking students who are able to go higher. During the second semester, we were able to open our laboratory in elementary chemistry, three of the English-speaking students having passed the required examinations. If any of you wish to see our students at their best, we recommend that you visit them in their laboratories and see them handling apparatus, performing experiments and calculating results. Ours is not a College of Letters, and we cannot be expected to show our best work along the lines of speeches, recitations and debates. We have reason, however, to believe that our English composition work will compare favourably with that of any school in Hongkong, for one of our students recently carried off the honours in a competition open to all schools in Hongkong for the best essay, written entirely by the student himself in English, on Chinese New Year Customs. The essay will appear in the next issue of the "South China Collegian." However, we do not intend to study Shakespeare or to specialize in English. We have good equipment already on hand for physical and assaying laboratories, but as yet we have no students ready for these lines of work.

The object of many of the schools in Hongkong seems to be solely to fit Chinese for service as clerks and compradores. I recently read an article by one of the prominent educators of Hongkong in which he said that he believed that Chinese should be taught just enough chemistry and physics to enable them to serve as translators and assistants for foreigners. This is not our object. We purpose to make these Chinese youths as capable of doing independent work as are the graduates of our great American Universities. We shall teach trigonometry, calculus, civil engineering and mechanical drawing as soon as students are prepared. Our Professor in this department is expected to arrive here from the United States in March. We aim to turn out masters and not tools. We realize that the aim is bold and that the path is long, being beset with shards and thorns, but from the work accomplished in one short year, we feel confident of ultimate success. It is our purpose in the near future to establish shops for metal and wood-working, similar to those already established by the School of Arts and Trades in Manila.

Having thus stated our object at length, I will review the work of the past year but briefly. In common with most of the schools in the Colony, our chief difficulty has been along the line of attendance. Over seventy students were enrolled, but when examination time came, the number had dwindled to thirty-five. Some of the absences were unavoidable, but the majority were for insufficient reason. Next year, our rules with regard to absences will be much more rigid. We shall have a physician examine those who claim to be ill, and none will be excused on that score without his certificate. Those who absent themselves for trifling causes will not be readmitted.

The discipline has been an easy matter, the deportment of the majority of the students has been splendid. Two have been expelled, one for dishonesty and one for the use of profane language; three others were caught smoking, but were allowed to remain upon promising that they would not repeat the offence.

The marks made in the final examinations were very satisfactory, the average in the two upper classes being 87 per cent. This was partly due, however, to the fact that the lazier students stayed away and only the best remained to undergo the ordeal.

Our college has suffered much during the past year from crowded class-rooms and lack of dormitory accommodation. During the coming year, we shall hold our classes in this building and rent a house in the neighbourhood to be used as a dormitory for students coming from a distance. This arrangement, however, is only temporary, and it is our hope that by the end of another year we shall have secured a place in the suburbs where we may have room for class work, laboratories, shops and dormitory as well as for physical drill and athletics.

Dr. WONG TAI FONG then distributed the report cards and prizes.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DESTITUTE SAILORS: RELIEF SCHEME BY HIS EXCELLENCY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 30th January, 1905.

SIR,—The President of the Benevolent Society has received the following letter from His Excellency the Governor on the subject of making temporary provision for destitute seamen in the Colony.

As the Benevolent Society which has many other demands upon it is not in sufficient funds to enable it to become a guarantor under the scheme suggested by His Excellency, it is obliged to invite residents who are interested in the matter to assist it by becoming guarantors.

If any are willing so to assist they will oblige by sending their names to the undersigned.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the City Hall on Tuesday, the 7th of February, at 5 p.m., when any further information concerning the scheme referred to above will be gladly given.

All who are interested in the general work of the Society and in this proposal in particular are invited to attend.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours faithfully,

H. A. V. MAY,
President Benevolent Society.

Government House,
Hongkong, 28th January, 1905.

DEAR MRS. MAY,—I willingly accede to your request that I should expand my suggestion that the Benevolent Society should render assistance in the difficult matter of dealing with cases of destitute seamen in the Colony, who have become destitute through no fault of their own.

As you are probably aware, it is now necessary before any destitute who is a seaman can gain admittance to the Sailors' Home that he should deposit \$60 as a guarantee for the cost of his maintenance, and owing to this rule, which is necessary if the Home is to keep its present satisfactory status of a self-supporting institution, many deserving cases of destitution are precluded from entering the Home and are preforce driven to the House of Detention.

I have, however, recently arranged that before any destitute is arrested by the Police and sent to the House of Detention as a vagrant he shall be sent to the Sailors' Home and have his case investigated by the Superintendent and Chaplain with a view to ascertaining whether the man is a seaman and worthy of assistance.

Should the case be a meritorious one I suggest that the Benevolent Society should guarantee the necessary \$60 and propose in order to effect this guarantee that subscribers should be invited, in addition to their present subscriptions to undertake the Society's obligations in the following manner. Assume that A, B, C, D, and E guarantee 1, 2, 4, 1, 5, sums of \$60 respectively in the year. The first destitute received into the Home would be supported by A, the 2nd by B, and so on to E. The sixth would be supported by B, the 7th by C, the 8th by E, the 9th by C, the 10th by E, the 11th by C, and the 12th and 13th by E. If the 2nd and 6th men remained in the Home 10 and 20 days respectively B would be called

upon to pay 10+20 by \$1.15=\$34.50. His maximum liability on account of these two men would be \$120.

The Benevolent Society would only make itself responsible to the Home for the number of destitutes guaranteed by the subscribers. Suppose that ten subscribers guaranteed on an average to pay for the stay at the Home of two distressed seamen. The Society would know that during the year it could draw on funds to pay for twenty men in all. It would keep the roster of the guarantors and call on them in succession to pay for the men that were admitted in succession to the Home.

It would thus merely furnish the machinery by which the scheme would be worked independently of the other work of the Society. It is no doubt true that it would be simpler for the Superintendent of the Home to himself do the work I suggest should be entrusted to your Society. But it seems to me that that Society has better opportunities for making the scheme known and for getting people to become guarantors. Besides, its members have formed themselves into a body "for the purpose of rendering assistance in cases of . . . distress in the Colony among persons other than the Chinese or Portuguese communities," and will probably look upon it as their right and privilege to take part in any scheme which has this end in view.

If the scheme commends itself to you, will you kindly put it before the Society? If it is adopted I should be willing to become responsible for five cases admitted to the Home in the course of the year, i.e. an E guarantor.—Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) MATTHEW NATHAN.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S RELIEF SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

1st February.

SIR,—After reading the scheme suggested by H.E. the Governor for the relief of destitute European and American seamen, it occurs to me that it would be helpful in the discussion of the scheme if the Superintendent of the Sailors' Home or the Hon. Secretary of the Ladies' Benevolent Society would, if possible, furnish answers (approximate if not exact) to the following questions:—

- (1) What was the average daily number of destitute Europeans and Americans in the Colony throughout the year 1904?
- (2) How many such persons are now in the Colony?
- (3) What is the proportion of deserving cases among them?
- (4) How many of these are accommodated in the Sailors' Home?
- (5) How many of the men who in the course of last year deposited \$60 to enter the Sailors' Home were able to leave that Institution before that sum was entirely exhausted?
- (6) If any, how many were turned out of the Sailors' Home last year because the amount of their deposit had been entirely mortgaged?
- (7) What became of them then?

Finally I should like to put to the public generally this question: Why should not the funds necessary to cover all deserving cases be obtained from the surplus revenue of the Colony? Every deserving case could then be guaranteed by the Government, but it may not be possible to do that under the system of voluntary guarantees. At present we support out of the public funds the deserving and the undeserving alike in the House of Detention. I venture to submit for consideration the suggestion that the deserving cases should be assisted by the Government at the Sailors' Home instead of in the prison-like House of Detention.

UBIQUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

1st February.

SIR,—It would appear by the correspondence in your issue of this date that there has long been a complete misapprehension as to the actual prime cost of individual support in cases of sailors (and officers) who are paid off from their ships in this port. The amount demanded by the Sailors' Home is, according to the

correspondence, \$60 per month. The following items may interest.

	cents.
Bread 2 lbs.	10
Butter 1 oz.	4
Cheese 1 lb.	4
Meat, average	30
Vegetables, Various	7
Tea, milk and sugar	10
Fruit, 1 Catty var	5
Condiments, var	5

Total, per day, 75 cts.

Add to this amount for extras or other dishes 33 per cent. 25

Per Day \$1

The quality of the articles here stated is the very best and estimated for an average of twenty men. In proportion as the number of men increases by tens, so the figure will reduce itself at the rate of ten per cent. Thus 30 men 90 cents per day, 40 men 80 cents per day, and so on, 50 men being well served at the rate of 70 cents per day.

In such very unpromising times it would be interesting to know how the \$60—demanded by the Sailors' Home—is disposed of. They must be having turkey, ham and champagne every day?—Yours, etc.,

EXPERT.

A DUSTBIN PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

2nd February.

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will allow me a small space in your valuable paper to reproduce the enclosed cutting from *Lloyd's News*, which is interesting to your readers and to the community at large:—

An important case relating to the collection of house refuse came before the Spelthorne magistrates at Sunbury. The Teddington Urban District Council recently decided to have a daily collection of dust, and circularised householders requesting them to place their dustbins in front of their houses. Mr. George Biddell, of The Hawthorns, Udney-park-road, Teddington, refused to comply with this notice, maintaining that it was the duty of the council to take the refuse from the back of his premises. The council denied their responsibility, and consequently were summoned by Mr. Biddell for failing to fulfil their obligations under section 42 of the Public Health Act, 1875.—The council's representative contended that that authority could pass a resolution to the effect that they would not collect any refuse at all.—In imposing a nominal fine of 5s, the chairman of the Bench (Mr. John Ashby) said the magistrates considered the council's request reasonable and proper, but the council having undertaken to collect house refuse, must do so, and if a householder refused to place the dust receptacle in front of his house then the council must go to the back and fetch it.—Yours, &c,

A RATEPAYER.

THE SEAMEN'S HOME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 2nd February.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Expert" is entirely wrong in his conclusions. Without wishing to enter into any controversy on the subject, I, being best qualified to know, will state the real facts.

The \$60 deposit is simply a guarantee to the Sailors' Home, as it is responsible for the man's keep for six months, not *one month* as stated. If the man reships before his deposit is exhausted, and he generally does, the balance, after the cost of his board and lodging has been deducted, is refunded. Sailors are charged at the rate of \$1.15 per day and officers at the rate of \$1.50. It might also be added that in the event of a seaman becoming sick, the Home guarantees his hospital expenses.

Without making any boast as to the fare provided, "Expert" will confer a favour if he will take the trouble to visit the Home. I shall be only too pleased to show him round, and let him see what value discharged seafarers get

for their money. From his total ignorance of the subject, I am convinced that he has never been within the walls of the Home, and his letter is only worthy of a reply on account of the interest that is centred on the subject at this time, and because of the erroneous ideas it might give rise to.—Yours sincerely,

A. A. H. MILROY.
Superintendent Sailors' Home.

THE RELIEF OF DESTITUTE SEAMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

2nd February.

SIR,—I have failed to find any justification in the letter written by His Excellency the Governor for the statement in "Expert's" letter that the charge for board and lodging at the Sailors' Home is \$60 a month. His Excellency puts the charge at \$1.15 per day, and when "Expert" adds to his list the cost of lighting, fuel for cooking, servants, the salary of the superintendent and the rental of the building (or interest on capital invested, if no "house rent" is paid), his figures prove to me that \$35.65 is not an extortionate charge for the accommodation, but an extremely moderate one.

The demand for a deposit of \$60 when a man enters the institution suggests to my mind that the authorities calculate that when a man gets stranded here he will be very fortunate if he finds another berth within a couple of months. That I take to be the teaching of experience. His Excellency apparently is under the impression that the average stay at the Home is from 10 to 20 days.

UBIQUE.

ALLEGED MURDER AND ARMED ROBBERY.

At the Police Court on Jan. 28th, Leung Tak, alias Ta Fa Men, was arraigned before Mr. Gompertz on charges of committing murder and armed robbery within the jurisdiction of China. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson, applied for the extradition of the prisoner on behalf of the Chinese Government. Mr. John Hastings defended the prisoner.

The robbery and murder are alleged to have been committed in Pik Kong village, Shin Tak district, Kwong Tung Province, in the Empire of China.

Soo Tsak Man, the first witness, stated:—The robbery was committed in my family dwelling house, Pik Kong village, on the night of the 2nd October, 1904. A number of armed robbers broke into my house, and prisoner was one of them. On the night in question I was sleeping in my room with my wife and two small sons, my brother and his wife being in another room, and two small servants in a third room. About 11 o'clock I was awakened by a noise in the street, and the subsequent breaking in of the door. As this was smashed in I arose to see what was the matter. A number of robbers came in armed with knives and swords. The prisoner held a six chambered revolver, and demanded my keys and valuables. As I refused, the robbers ransacked my place, securing \$300 worth of jewellery, \$340 in cash, and \$120 worth of clothing. They then entered another room, and I heard my brother and his wife weeping. I went in afterwards, but the robbers had gone. In another room I found my maidservant lying dead, with a gunshot wound in the back. I heard a number of shots fired that night, and on the 4th instant, when I searched the room, found two bullets on the floor. My other servant became ill and died after the robbery. I recognise prisoner because he was the man who hit me over the shin with a revolver. I identified him from among a number of men at the Police Station.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings: On the night of the robbery there were no other persons in the house than those mentioned. My family have lived for several generations in Pik Kong. I was born there. I heard the authorities at my village had offered \$1,000 for the capture of the robbers. I do not know whether they offered \$3,000. I saw the prisoner in the market place of the village at a distance

of from 80 to 100 feet. I am not blind in one eye. On the night of the robbery I went to bed at nine o'clock. When disturbed, I sat up in bed inside a mosquito curtain. The street door was first banged, and immediately afterwards I heard shots. The door was banged in and a lot of people entered. I was afraid, and hid myself at the end of the bed. My wife was also frightened and covered her head with the quilt. Two of the robbers came up to me and bore me to the ground. There were eight or ten men altogether, but I could not clearly see who had revolvers. There was a great noise and confusion. I told them I had no money, and one of them struck me on the leg because I refused to say where it was. (Witness showed the Court a big scar on his shin.) The wound took about four months to heal. While the firing continued, none of the neighbours came into my place. They were all afraid. There is one military official in the village. I do not know whether he has come to Hongkong. I went and reported the matter to the village elders first thing on the day after the occurrence. I then took a petition, drawn up by the elders, to the Sun Tak Magistrate. He came to my house. While he was there a constable found two bullets. I did not search for them before because I was not at leisure.

The hearing of this case, in which Leung Tak, alias Ta Fa Min, was charged with murder and armed robbery within the jurisdiction of China, was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 1st inst. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, applied on behalf of the Chinese Government for the extradition of the prisoner. Mr. John Hastings appeared for the defence.

Su Chuk Man was further cross-examined by Mr. Hastings:—The body of the maidservant who was killed on the 2nd October was buried on the 4th October on a hill near Pak Kong. I went to the grave when she was buried.

Su Yee Man declared:—I am a brother of the last witness, and live at the same house with him. On the night of the robbery, my brother two of his children, his wife, my wife, and two maidservants were sleeping in the house. The maidservants were sleeping in a room near the street. Anybody entering the house from the front would first come into their room. On the evening of the robbery I went to bed at 9 p.m. About 11 p.m. I heard a lot of people coming in by the street door. A hammering noise woke me up. I then heard two shots after which I heard a hammering at the parlour door. This door is between the parlour and the yard. When I heard this hammering I got up and hid myself under the bed. The parlour door was bolted. It was broken in. Some people entered my room. One man holding a light dragged me from under the bed. I then saw seven or eight men in the room. They were armed with knives and revolvers. One came up and searched me. Others broke open three boxes in the room. The man who searched me took a bangle off my wrist. Altogether the robbers took property of mine worth about \$380. I afterwards heard a noise like the firing of crackers in the street, and one of the robbers said "Sung." They then made off dragging me with them. I would not walk, so the prisoner pointed a revolver at me. He said "You'd better walk; if not, I will shoot you." Three men then dragged me out of the gate into the street by force. They did not take me very far. There were about thirty men at the place to which they dragged me. The two men who dragged me out then said they would let me go. This remark was addressed to the other robbers. One of them said, "No. Take him back." Prisoner then came up and asked what was the matter. He said to me:—"I will let you go; consider yourself lucky." The robbers then decamped and I went home. When I entered the door, I saw the maidservant lying on the floor. She was then dead. I did not see a wound on her at the time. On entering the parlour I saw my brother. He had a mark on his leg. I am quite sure I saw prisoner at the house that evening. He is the man who let me go and pointed at me with a revolver. I picked him out from a number of others inside the gaol here. Nobody described him to me beforehand. After the

robbery a Chinese official called at my house to investigate. This was on the 4th October. The other maidservant died a month after the robbery.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings:—My brother does not sell lottery tickets, neither does he collect money for lotteries. He does not run a gambling establishment. When the official came to my house he found two bullets. He did not take them away. I did not think it was important that I should bring the bullets here with me. I did not go to the maidservant's funeral. I am frightened of dead bodies. My wife was in bed with me when the robbers came. When I hid underneath the bed she got under the blanket. I never saw the prisoner before the night of the robbery.

John William Hanson, Chief Detective-Inspector, deposed:—I was in the charge-room at the Central Station when the prisoner was brought in. The warrant gave his name as Leung Chan, alias Ta Fa Min. When asked his name the prisoner said, "I am Leung Tak." I said "Your surname is Leung; you say your name is Tak and not 'Chan.'" I then said "You are Ta Fa Min." He replied, "They call me so." I was present when Soo Tak Man picked out the prisoner from sixteen others on the gaol compound. This was in the presence of the Captain Superintendent, who made the arrangements. It was on 14th January. The identification by each of the witnesses was separate. There could be no communication between the two witnesses prior to the identification by each of the witnesses.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings:—Defendant was picked out from a row of sixteen remand prisoners. I do not think any of the Chinese detectives were present at the identification. I do not know that some of them have a considerable interest in this case.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

The annual general meeting of seatholders and subscribers of the Cathedral was held in St. Paul's College on the 31st January. There were present:—His Lordship the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hoare (Chairman), Hon. Capt. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Revs. F. Johnson and W. J. Southam, Major Pritchard, Drs. Atkinson and Clark, Messrs. J. Whittall, J. Bryer, G. Piercey, H. W. Slade, J. M. Beck, J. H. Edwards, W. Armstrong, W. J. Pottenden, A. G. Ward, and Mesdames Hoare and Barnes-Lawrence.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

ACCOUNTS.

The accounts of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Whittall, were submitted to the meeting for approval.

The TREASURER stated that while donations and subscriptions had fallen off a little, the amount of offertories had increased. The whole account showed a slight decrease in general expenditure. He had to emphasise the fact that far the greater part of the credit balance had been absorbed in paying the remainder of the charge on the organ.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP thought they had every reason to be thankful for the condition of the accounts. The total amount received from pew rents was \$3,693, a little less than last year. The amount received by donations was about \$400 less. He accounted for this by the senior people being away. They were the largest subscribers, and when they retired, as seniors do, they took their larger donations with them. All ought to remember that when seniors retire the juniors in their turn become senior, and might be increasing their donations as they rise in seniority, position and pay. The chief cause for congratulation was with regard to the collection, which had increased this year by \$550. This is a very marked increase if we consider that the increase since a few years ago is over \$2,000 in the ordinary collections made at the services. His Lordship concluded by expressing his thanks to the choir and organist who had given a great deal of time and trouble to the musical part of the Church services.

Mr. H. W. SLADE moved that the accounts be adopted.

Mr. W. ARMSTRONG seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

BONUS TO MR. A. G. WARD.

HIS LORDSHIP stated that Mr. Ward was about to leave them, having had another offer, which he thought would suit him better, in Shanghai. He felt sure that all present would wish Mr. Ward God-speed and prosperity in his new sphere, while expressing their regret at losing him. Mr. Chapman, of Messrs Linstead and Davis, had promised to do the organist's work for six months. The Church body proposed that a bonus of \$500 be given Mr. Ward on his retirement in recognition of his services, during the years he has acted as organist.

Mr. J. WHITTALL proposed that a bonus as aforesaid be given to the retiring organist.

Mr. W. ARMSTRONG seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

NEW ORGANIST'S AGREEMENT.

Mr. J. M. BECK moved that this matter be left in the hands of the Church Body.

Mr. G. PIERCEY seconded the motion, which was carried.

TEMPORARY ORGANIST.

Rev. F. T. JOHNSON moved, and Mr. H. SLADE seconded, that Mr. Chapman be appointed temporary organist.

The motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW VERGER.

Rev. F. T. JOHNSON, in proposing that the appointment of Mr. Vanstone as vergier be ratified, stated that Mr. White, who has been the vergier for the last ten years, has had to retire because of promotion in the Government service. The matter was left in his hands by the Church Body and he appointed temporarily Mr. Vanstone, who is also caretaker of the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street. He told Mr. Vanstone that his appointment was entirely subject to the approval of this meeting.

Dr CLARK seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION RE ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN.

HIS LORDSHIP stated that the Colonial Church Council suggested the engagement of an assistant chaplain to assist in the Cathedral and take charge of the Kowloon Church. This was considered the best way of starting the work in Kowloon. The Kowloon Church scheme originated in no small degree from Naval services now held in the Torpedo depot at Kowloon. The present Naval Chaplain said he would certainly be willing to carry on the evening services in the new church. The newly appointed Naval chaplain also expressed his willingness to do so, subject to the approval of the Naval authorities. The new chaplain would thus be free to help in the Cathedral every Sunday evening, and he would also be free for early celebrations in the morning. The Kowloon district should be considered a special parochial charge of the new chaplain, and thus the charge would be taken off the shoulders of the present Cathedral chaplain. The Cathedral Church Body would contribute \$2,000 per month in consideration of the Chaplain's services, the remainder to be paid by the Kowloon Church. The post ought to be held by a married man, and in order to enable a married man to hold it, he suggested \$4,000 as a suitable income. This arrangement to last three years unless the Kowloon Church Committee undertake before that time to pay the cost of their own chaplain. The passage from England to Hongkong will be paid by the Cathedral Church Body, and the passage home by the Kowloon Church Committee. The question as to how far the Cathedral was called upon to help in this way was a very important one. He thought they were called upon to do so as the Cathedral was the mother church of the Colony, and it was the duty of a mother to help her children. Besides, they would have the services of Kowloon's Chaplain. The Church Body had discussed and agreed to this resolution, and now they wanted it put before the meeting in order that it might be fully, fairly and freely discussed.

Mr. SLADE moved that the resolution be adopted.

Major PRITCHARD seconded the motion.

Rev. W. J. SOUTHAM: I wish to ask if the chaplain coming out will be altogether in charge of the Kowloon Church? Will there be any danger of a conflict between the man coming out and a Naval Chaplain?

HIS LORDSHIP: There might be a possibility if they are men of very diverse views, but the Chaplain will be in charge of the morning service, and the Naval Chaplain in charge of the evening service.

Mr. SLADE: I understand the Chaplain coming out would be in a similar position to the Kowloon Church as the Cathedral Chaplain is to the Cathedral Church.

HIS LORDSHIP, in reply to Mr. Whittall, stated that the final appeal in any difference would have to be to the deed of gift.

Rev. Mr. JOHNSON said if it came to a point the Naval Chaplain had no right of entry. There was no question about this now, however, as the Naval Chaplain was only by his kindness assisting at Kowloon.

HIS LORDSHIP, in reply to a member, stated that in case of the Chaplain's wages not being forthcoming, there was no further responsibility on the Cathedral than the guarantee of \$1,000.

The motion was carried.

RE-ELECTION OF CHURCH BODY AND AUDITOR.

Hon. Capt. Barnes-Lawrence, Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. H. W. Slade, J. Whittall, J. Bryer and W. Armstrong were re-elected members of the Church Body. Mr. J. C. Peter was re-elected auditor.

A VOTE OF THANKS.

Rev. F. T. JOHNSON proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the following for services rendered in connection with Cathedral work during the past year:—The Church Body; the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Whittall, and the Secretary, Mr. Bryer; Mr. Peter, the clergy, especially the Revs. France, Bunbury and Jenkins, and Messrs. Ward and Chapman.

LATE BISHOP PIAZZOLI.

Preaching from the text "Labour as a good soldier of Christ," Father Spada said, *inter alia*—

The sad news of the death of Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, conveyed to us from Italy by telegram on the 27th of December last, has been as painful as it was unexpected. The health of his Lordship, which last summer was causing anxiety, had so much improved lately in Milan as to give us firm hope of soon seeing him back in Hongkong; but it was otherwise decreed by Divine Providence. His Lordship succumbed under the weight of his ministry at the age of only 59 years. The news was spread at once in the Colony as well as in the neighbouring colonies of Macao, Canton, Manila, etc., and from all have been received unanimous feelings of sorrow and condolence. Likewise H.E. the Governor, the Admirals, the Chief Justice, and all the leading officials of the Colony, have deigned to honour us with the expressions of their sympathy on the sad occasion. To all we beg to tender our most heartfelt thanks.

Mon. Piazzoli, the youngest son of a large family, was born at Alzano, near Milan, of very virtuous parents. He received from them his first education, which gave to young Piazzoli a good and intrepid character, preparing him unconsciously for the most noble of ministries. He continued his education in Bergam College, going through a classical course, as is generally done by those young men who are intended for the ecclesiastical profession. He then studied philosophy, theology, and the sciences, passing successfully his examination in the Seminary at Milan, and in the year 1863 he was ordained priest.

The necessary preparations having been made, the young priest was sent to Hongkong, where at that time the mission was at its beginning.

Many inhabitants of a village having communication with the father, and being pleased with the religion he taught, spontaneously resolved to embrace the faith; but their resolution was not pleasing to their neighbours, who interfered and put every obstacle in the way, even threatening them with death; but God, who wanted these chosen souls, gave them such strength that notwithstanding these threats, though they were entirely free, they wished to be baptised. Being sufficiently instructed, and after many proofs of constancy and good will, Father Luiz decided to baptise them, and did so. After baptism the new converts were very pleased and satisfied and thought they would have no more trouble from their neighbours. But they were deceived. Secretly their neighbours were pre-

paring terrible vengeance to satisfy their hatred, deciding to kill the Father and Christians alike. Father Luiz having knowledge that the converts were in danger of their lives, as a good shepherd he went at once to help them, ready to give his own life to save that of his sheep. Having no residence, he took lodging in a small hut where a Chinese family was living. There he learned the intentions of the pagans, and discovered that they were blinded with hatred against the poor converts. He made efforts to appease the people, but in vain; the pagans were decided at any cost to destroy the Christians. He then went to his lodging, recommending the converts to abstain from violence and to be prepared to give their lives for the most noble cause, viz. as martyrs of God.

At his lodging he heard that he himself was also to be executed. In the meantime night came, every measure was taken not to allow the victims to escape. With a dinner they prepared themselves to execute these poor people who were guilty of no other crime than that of being Christians. The dinner being over, the terrible sounds of the "tom-tom" or gong was heard with cries of death and imprecations against the poor victims. Terror invaded the whole village, without a voice of mercy or pity for the poor innocents who had barricaded themselves in their houses. The pagan gang, armed with rifles and other weapons, and also provided with crow-bars to break in the doors, entered the village, and breaking in the houses, hacked and wounded all that came in their way. They then took with them as prisoners five men who were fathers of families. The women and children then succeeded in escaping in the darkness, leaving all they possessed in the hands of their persecutors. With the light of torches and the sound of the "tom-tom" the five men were tied to a tree, beaten and maltreated in every way. The cries of the poor victims failed to excite compassion in the hearts of these tigers in human form, and the poor creatures were cut to pieces. Imagine the pain and distress felt by good Father Luiz when he heard their cries and witnessed the cruel treatment to which they were subjected without being able to give them any assistance! Next day his own terrible hour arrived. He was still hiding in the same hut, the cries of his persecutors, threatening him with death, ringing in his ears. He prepared to die, glad of having the occasion of giving his blood for the faith for which so many disciples of the Cross have given their own in former times. The good father as a mild lamb presented himself to his persecutors at the distance of a few paces. At once a murderous hand presented a rifle at him and pulled the trigger, but fortunately the rifle missed fire; he tried a second and a third time, but with the same result. At this moment an old man who was standing by lowered the rifle, suggesting that the execution of the father be deferred to the night, as it would be then easier to conceal the affair in case the foreigners came to inquire about it. As the day passed the poor father was counting with anxiety the hours, waiting for his end. At nightfall a pagan who some time previously had received some favour from the missionary, taking pity on him, came to his rescue, eluding the vigilance of the persecutors. The hut in which the priest was hiding was only of dried earth bricks. The good Chinese, making an opening at the back of the house which was facing the fields, put in some torn clothes, telling the father to change at once and escape with him. Father Luiz at once perceiving in this a help from Heaven immediately changed his clothes, passed through the opening, and took flight through the fields, in search of a secure hiding place. After this persecution the sufferings through which the father passed were almost incredible. On another occasion it was entirely due to providence that he escaped with his life. He was accompanying a new missionary to his destination, travelling in a Chinese junk. At night the junk stopped as there was no wind, and it was also very dark. Suddenly a boat full of pirates appeared. The pirates, who were fully armed, tried to board the junk. The danger was very great for the occupants, who had to fight hard for their lives. A terrible fight ensued, in which firearms were freely used; many fell dead into the sea and others were severely wounded. The missionaries gave each other the last Absolution

and baptised a catechumen, expecting that all was over with them, as all the crew of the junk were wounded and the ammunition exhausted. As a last resource, the steersman, who had still some powder left, got all the old pieces of iron, broken pots, and everything else of the like on which he could lay his hands, and loaded an old cannon which had not yet been used in the fight, and fired it. The effect was murderous on the pirate boat, as several men were seen to fall, and the rest thinking that the junk was well armed put off at once crying for mercy. But the steersman did not get off safe, as the cannon burst, blowing off his right arm and wounding him severely in the side. Though all the occupants of the junk except the priests were wounded, none of them were killed. An idea of the terrible fight may be formed from the fact that the next morning the sea around the junk was red with blood.

It was in the midst of such dangers and difficulties that Father Luiz performed for twenty-one years his apostolic ministry.

What is most marvellous is that all this was done while his health was far from being good, as he suffered frequently from fever brought on most probably by the climate. In the beginning of 1892 the Very Rev. Father Burghinoli, whose holy memory is still fresh in your minds, died, and Father Luiz was appointed Pro-Vicar Apostolic by Mon. Raimondi. During the three years that he was Pro-Vicar Apostolic he continued the same active life in Hongkong which was his characteristic while he was in the interior of China. He gave special proof of his zeal in the year 1894, when the plague first appeared in this Colony. You all know that that year was the worst with regard to the plague. Every day he was visiting the plague patients either in their houses or at the plague hospital, giving them religious consolation and administering the sacrament. In the same year Mon. Raimondi, of holy memory, expired, and a few months after this Father Luiz was elected Bishop and Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong. In his humility he refused, but the orders of his superiors were irrevocable, so he had to give in. On May 19th, 1895, he was consecrated Bishop in the Cathedral, as you may remember.

TURBULENT CHINESE AT SHANGHAI.

The "Native Notes" writer of our northern contemporary had the following on Jan. 16th:—

Although there has been a strong undercurrent of bitter hostility against the Russians amongst all classes of Chinese, let alone those of Ningpo descent, ever since the Bund tragedy of the 15th of December last, which has been prevented with great difficulty from breaking out by Captains Shen Tun-ho, Yu Ya-shing and other prominent resident Ningpo gentlemen, who appealed to the good sense and general love of peace amongst the more quiet and law-abiding portion of their numerous fellow-townsmen, the gentlemen named above had their hands full indeed when the sentence of the Russian Court-martial upon the sailor Arceef became known on Saturday to the Chinese community here. The Ningpo men, of the lower classes who are specially numerous in the Chinese suburbs, beyond the French settlement, led by men who ought to have known better, were clamorous in their demands to hold a mass meeting at their Guild, or what is usually known amongst us as the "Ningpo Josahouse," in order to settle about the calling of a general strike, the closing of all shops kept by Ningpo men in the three settlements etc., in order to show their wrath against the Russians. Fortunately this was reported in time to the Ningpo gentlemen referred to above, who knew that such a gathering of infuriated and irresponsible men would surely result in a riot from which only those who were innocent would suffer, and so, hurrying to the Chinese suburbs these gentlemen and their supporters with extreme difficulty succeeded in preventing the proposed mass meeting by letting it be known that they, and the principal representatives of various other provinces residing in Shanghai, were about to convene at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce to arrange about the best method of showing the general dissatisfaction over the re-

sult of the Court-martial. This quieted in a manner many of the turbulent spirits gathered in the Chinese suburbs and the proposed demonstration was adjourned to await the result of the meeting at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. This was published in an Express sent out yesterday and distributed throughout the foreign settlements, native city and suburbs, which we now translate as follows:—At a conference held this afternoon in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, in which the members of the Committee of the Guilds of the various provinces doing business in Shanghai participated, it was decided in the first place to send a joint telegram signed by the Committees of the Guilds present, to the Waiwupu and also to the Imperial High Commissioners of the Nanyang Administration (Viceroy Chon Fu of Nanking) strongly protesting against the action of the Russian authorities in relation to the death of Chon Seng-yu at the hands of Russian sailors. In the second place it was decided to draw up petitions, signed by the members of Committees of the various provincial Guilds present, and send them to the Shanghai Taotai, the Senior Consul, and the International and French Municipal Councils, informing these gentlemen of the popular dissatisfaction and the difficulty being experienced by the petitioners in calming the people; and thirdly, it has been decided to stop using all notes issued by the Russo-Chinese Bank, until matters have been settled. These three decisions have received the unanimous endorsement of all the representatives of the various provinces assembled this day, and they now unite in requesting the merchants and handicraftsmen of Ningpo descent in Shanghai to postpone their proposed mass meeting. (Signed) The members of Committees of all the provincial guilds established in the port of Shanghai.

As already stated above this Express succeeded in preventing the mass meeting at the Ningpo Joss-house called for yesterday by the more turbulent of the Ningpo community of this port, and as can be imagined may be said to have been the only way under the circumstances to effect such a thing, as these people had lost faith in the ability of their leaders and the Shanghai Taotai to do anything in the matter. Had a mass meeting of the kind referred to been allowed to take place there is no knowing to what a pass these ignorant and misguided Ningpo labourers, handicraftsmen and coolies, led by interested rascals and assisted by rowdies and desperadoes, would have been brought.

PROPOSED KUANGTUNG-KUANGSI RAILWAY.

In response to a circular despatch of Viceroy Tsên to the Waiwupu and the Shangpu asking for money to construct a railway which shall join the two provincial capitals (Canton and Kueilin) of Kuangtung and Kuangsi, in order that China may be first in the field and so prevent foreigners from seeking to exploit the same, the two Boards have sent a reply empowering Viceroy Tsên to raise funds locally as the Central Government has no available funds for the proposed undertaking. In consequence of this, Viceroy Tsên has ordered that all civil and military officials holding office in the two Kuang provinces, are to subscribe a certain percentage of their salaries at once towards the scheme, while on the other hand the wealthy gentry and merchants of the two provinces are to be appealed to to purchase shares in the new railway. With the money thus raised Viceroy Tsên has expressed his conviction that there will be quite sufficient funds to start the venture and bring its construction to a successful issue. Viceroy Tsên also rightly thinks that once the line has been started and opened to traffic without delay as each section became completed, and worked intelligently and honestly—and there are plenty of Cantonese and natives of Kuangsi who can do so—not only would the road pay for itself as its construction proceeded, but that those who held back from subscribing for fear of losing their money, seeing how things were managed, would only be too glad to press their money into the hands of those in charge of the railway for the purchase of shares in the concern.

THE A.D.C. PERFORMANCE OF "JANE."

"Jane" is just the right kind of piece to bring out the qualities, good or bad, of amateur Theatians, and if presented at all well, is sure to delight almost any audience. It belongs to the "Charley's Aunt" category, with a soupçon more of farce about it. The "fat" all falls to the share of the servant characters, the soubrette, the bachelor's man, and buttons. The fun allotted to the master is of a less vociferous sort, and less liable to reach its mark.

The very shabby, holed, and dirty green front cloth drew up on a scene mounted with the amateurs' too great devotion to detail. The effect of all the pictures and nic-nacs is, of course, excellent in the extreme, but it is not the professional way of suggesting a drawing room interior. It is a drawing room. As these things are not properties, made to be removed in convenient bunches, they involve long waits between scenes. In this case, however, the action all taking place in the one setting, it did not matter.

The title role was in unusually capable hands, Mrs. Hall-Wright as "Jane" presenting a soubrette performance of quite professional verve and aplomb. Given the pert, pretty, and spoiled maid, taken into the confidence of her foolish master, and paid to conspire with him to deceive the trustee of the family estate; it is not difficult to imagine that "Jane," as portrayed by this lady, would be duplicated word for word, and action for action, in real life. There was really very little of the burlesque about her performance, but a great deal of genuine humour. We have it on excellent feminine authority that her dresses—or two of the three worn during the evening—were "simply lovely; and must have cost an awful lot."

We liked Mr. Shackleton (Capt. Smith, A.D.C.), but think he might, to maintain the exact spirit of the play, have taken his troubles a little more seriously. In his restrained, expressive, and carefully enunciated rendering of his part, there seemed to be at times an undertone of amusement, natural enough; but supposing the character to have been foolish enough to do as he did, we cannot think that he would have sufficient sense of humour to smile at his own folly, as Capt. Smith's Shackleton seemed to be doing. He was, however, quite good enough on the whole to disarm criticism.

"William" (Mr. H. W. Bird) was excellent. In our opinion he made up a little too old; but for the rest we are inclined to give him unqualified praise. His elocution, enunciation, mannerisms, and "business" were all that we have ever looked for from such a character, real or stagey. We have heard it opined that he exaggerated some of his despondent poses, but we did not see it. He was great fun, and good throughout.

The same may be said of "Claude," the boy in buttons (Mr. Tester), who made more than the most of his part. We know the book, and can assure the reader that he introduced a lot of excellent "business" of his own, always pat, and never interfering with the progress of the piece. We should like to see him in a principal comedy role by-and-bye.

Mrs. J. Hooper as the amorous widow had a capital make-up, and got a lot of amusement out of her part, which was throughout capably interpreted.

Mrs. Chichester as the master's true fiancée looked charming, and got through her small part with credit. Considering that this was her debut in a speaking part, Mrs. Chichester showed a commendable lack of nervousness. A little more freedom of manner and responsiveness, when the reconciliation with her lover took place, would have been more in keeping with her opening scene.

"Mr. Kershaw," the trustee (Mr. H. W. Looker), had a capital voice and a really excellent make-up as the elderly gentleman who was to be diddled and wheedled into alleviating his ward's financial troubles. We think this the weakest character in the piece, but the fault is rather that of the playwright than the actor, who may certainly be credited with a good rendering of a difficult part.

Mrs. Mitchell as the virago "Mrs. Pixton" was distinctly good, in manner, make-up, and speech. When delivering her ultimatum, the

posture of her arms in the threatening attitude she assumed did not look so natural, we think, as would arms akimbo, or elbows nursed in the manner of the Police Court termagant, but this is, no doubt, hypercriticism. It was a small part excellently done. So was the small part of her husband (Mr. M. W. Silas), whose make-up was really most amusing.

It was a rattling good performance all round, thoroughly enjoyed, and quite a success. We cannot, indeed, remember a performance by the A.D.C. in which all the characters have been so uniformly excellent as in this performance of "Jane"; and the veteran stage manager, Mr. E. W. Mitchell, to whose untiring exertions the success of these performances by the A.D.C. is so largely due, is to be most heartily congratulated upon the latest triumph of the Club.

The house was not so crowded as we expected to see it; there were several seats vacant in the dress circle; but \$965 cannot be considered a small haul for one performance. Only two more performances of "Jane" are announced—one this evening and the other on Saturday next. The excellence of the play should ensure crowded houses each night.

We must not omit a word of praise for the orchestra, for the music was excellent. By kind permission of Rear-Admiral the Hon. A. G. Curzon-Howe, and the captain and officers of H.M.S. *Ocean*, the band of this battleship, which formed the orchestra on Saturday, will play each evening under the direction of Bandmaster H. Willmer.

H.E. the Governor and suite were present at the performance.

CHINESE WARSHIPS TO BE BUILT IN JAPAN.

A long memorial by Viceroy Chang Chih-tung regarding the order for gunboats and torpedo-boats to be built in Japan and shallow draught warships in China has been duly sanctioned by the Throne. From the memorial it is understood that four gunboats for the Yangtse river had been ordered by the Viceroy at Nanking, while Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has ordered ten ships, six gunboats, and four torpedo-boats. The description of the gunboats is:—steel, twin screw, length 200 feet, beam 29 feet 6 inches, the depth of the hull 14 feet, mean draught 8 feet, displacement 740 tons, I.H.P. 1,350, average speed 13 knots, with armament consisting of two twelve centimetre guns, two 7½ centimetre guns, and four machine guns, and it is necessary that the hull suffer no effect from the firing of these guns. The vessels compared with the vessels for Nanking show an increase in tonnage of 220 tons, in horse power 400, while in armament one gun at the stern and bow respectively. The description of the torpedo-boats is:—Length 40; beam 4.94; depth of the hull 2.05 and mean draught 1.110 (French measurements); tonnage, 96 tons, horse power 1,300; average speed, 23 knots; armament, two 4.7 centimetre guns, three 14 inch-torpedo tubes. These boats are to be built at the Kawasaki Dock Company at Kobe.—*Sinwampoo*.

THE HOLLYWOOD ROAD HOLOCAUST.

CHARGES OF MURDER AND ARSON.

The hearing of the case in which Chan Chung and Tan Hop were charged with murder and arson in connection with the fire at No. 168, Hollywood Road, wherein several persons were burnt to death, was continued before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on Feb. 2nd. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain-Superintendent of Police, prosecuted, and Mr. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley's office) represented the Meiji Fire Insurance Company. Prisoners were not defended.

Iu Po, Chief Chinese Detective, declared: On the morning of the 12th ult. at 2.15 a.m., I was in a chair going from West to East. Just as I reached No. 170, Hollywood Road, I heard someone calling out "Fire." He called out two or three times. I then saw a man standing outside the door of No. 168. I looked in and saw that all was in darkness. I caught hold of the man who shouted "Fire." Then I saw fire burn up suddenly inside No. 168. The man I

seized was the first defendant. I afterwards saw the second defendant running out of No. 168. I also caught hold of him. I then shouted out "Fire" and afterwards said to the defendants, "This is your doing." The first defendant said:—"The master order me to do it." I smelt a strong smell of kerosene in the premises. I asked the prisoners where the master had gone. One of them replied, "He has gone to Canton." After the fire caught, it was only about one minute before it spread all over the ground floor.

William Sydney Bissell, sworn, submitted a plan showing the positions of floors, etc., in houses Nos. 168, Hollywood Road, and 39, Square Street.

Kwok Yik San declared: On the early morning of the 12th January I was going along Hollywood Road. I heard someone behind me cry out "Fire." I walked back in the direction of the cry, when I saw two men. I looked in No. 168 and saw a little fire. I heard the detective say "This is your work." I then warned them and said—"You are unlucky; you will get twenty years at least." I stayed there three or four minutes, and when I left the fire was burning strongly.

Li Yee Sui, P.C. No. 375, said the second defendant ran out of the house fully dressed.

Wong Pak Mo said: I lived at No. 168, Hollywood Road, second floor, with my wife and two children. On the night of the 11th January we were sleeping there. I was awakened in the early morning, and on going out to the verandah saw flame coming from the ground floor. I shouted "fire," and rushing in again caught up my son, and went up to the third floor. I there laid down my son and looked for a way of escape, but could not find one. My uncle and cousin, who were on the verandah with me, pulled down the partition and we escaped into the house on the eastern side, and out by Square Street. After I got to the third floor, I was unable, owing to the fierceness of the fire, to return to the second to try to save my wife and daughters. Later in the morning I informed the Police that my wife was missing, and went with Inspector Gourlay to the scene of the fire, where I identified the bodies of my wife and daughters.

FIRE IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

On the 2nd February fire broke out on the second floor of a three-story house, kept by Cheng Yuk Chun of the Nam Loong firm, in Queen's Road Central. The flames spread rapidly till the whole upper part of the building was blazing. Fire Brigade operations were carried out under the orders of Chief Inspector Baker, a number of bluejackets lending a hand. A large crowd of Europeans backed by a throng of Chinese watched the conflagration. Inspector Dymond was in charge of police regulating the traffic. The roof over the block of three houses, Nos. 86, 97 and 99, crashed in. The fire was well under control at about a quarter to eight. The upper floors were completely gutted, while the ground and first floors were damaged by water. The premises were insured in L'Urbaine Insurance Company for \$35,000, in the Tung U Insurance Company for \$10,000 and in the Imperial Insurance Company for \$10,000.

A fire broke out in a Chinese Bank, No. 101, Queen's Road, on the 2nd February. The outbreak is supposed to have occurred in the kitchen at the rear of the bank, and from thence it quickly spread to the adjoining premises of Messrs. Nam Hing Loong, foreign goods merchants. The fire had a strong hold when the brigade, under Chief Inspector Baker, arrived on the scene. The firemen, by strenuous exertion, succeeded in getting the fire under way about two hours after the outbreak, but not before damage estimated at \$33,000 was done to the stock of Messrs. Nam Hing Loong by fire and water, the goods on the ground, first and second floors being practically destroyed. The bank premises were insured for \$5,000, while Messrs. Nam Hing Loong's stock and premises were insured in the Imperial, Urban and Kung On Insurance Companies to the extent of \$55,000.

PIRACY IN HONGKONG HARBOUR.

The remand case in which four Chinese were charged with committing piracy in the Harbour off Quarry Bay, and stealing from a cargo junk goods to the total value of \$2,074 under circumstances already recorded in these columns, came on for hearing before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 31st January. Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson prosecuted, and Mr. H. K. Holmes represented the fourth defendant, and Leung Yee, a woman indicted for receiving certain of the stolen goods to the value of \$10.

Kwok San Chi declared: I am the master and owner of the passage boat No. 360, trading between Shauiwan and Victoria. The cargo I generally bring here is salt fish, and the return cargo is rice. As a rule the only passengers I carry are those accompanying their cargo. On the morning of the 13th instant, at 2 a.m., I left Shauiwan. There were three women and six men besides myself on board. The sail was hoisted, but there was not much wind. We were rowing on board, and had got as far as the Soap Works when I saw a boat about eight or ten *chung* off. It was rowing towards us from the direction of the mainland. There were twelve men in the boat. I called out and asked what boat it was. I got no answer, but the boatmen pulled alongside, jumped on board, and told us not to make a noise; they said they were taking revenge. They further said, "If you do shout we'll kill you." They left two men on board their own craft. The men who boarded us had knives and revolvers in their hands. I was pressed down into the cabin by two of the band. They told me if I did not stay there they would stab me to death. One of them then struck me with the flat of a knife and rubbed pepper into my eyes. The rest of the people on board including the women were pressed into the hold. I saw the robbers removing boxes. They were on board about half-an-hour. Before leaving they put the hatches on the hold. After some time they called out "Sung." I went up on deck and saw the robbers' boat going in the direction of Tsai-chowan. I then made an examination of my boat and found that I had lost \$1,500 which I kept in a box, over 200 pieces of clothing valued at \$200, and jewellery worth over \$130. We went to Shauiwan and reported the matter.

In reply to His Worship: The money I had on board was my earnings. I never keep a banking account.

Cross-examined by Mr. Holmes:—It was dark the morning the pirates boarded my junk. They were pulling four oars. Their craft appeared to be a fishing boat. It was without masts. I could not see whether it had a hood on. Pepper was not rubbed into my eyes until after the defendants boarded us. As soon as they did, they bore me to the deck, so that I did not get a chance to see them. I had no passengers on board this trip. The cargo of fish on board was worth between \$800 and \$900. None of this cargo was stolen. I saw two knives about seven inches long in possession of the robbers. I do not carry any arms on board my boat. Neither my *fok's* nor myself resisted the robbers, as they pointed revolvers at us.

The four Chinese pirates who took \$2,074 from a cargo junk in Quarry Bay were brought up on remand on Feb. 1st. Mr. H. K. Holmes again appeared to defend one of them.

Kwok San Chi deposed: On the morning of the 13th instant our junk left Shauiwan for Victoria. When we got as far as the Soap Works I saw a boat pulling towards us from the direction of Tsai-chowan. There were over ten men on board of her. When the boat got near us I shouted out "What boat is that?" They did not answer, but kept on pulling towards our boat. When they got alongside they told us not to call out or they would shoot us. They said they had come to take revenge. Seven men boarded our junk and two remained in their boat. Some of the boarders were armed with revolvers, and some with daggers. Some of them rubbed my eyes with pepper, and blinded me. One of the robbers broke the rattan of the gold mounted bangle on my right wrist and took it away. I also had a gold mounted bangle on my left wrist. This they

tried to pull off, but as they could not they put my wrist on the cover of the hatch and with a chopper cut the rattan of the bangle. They also took my gold finger ring. I was then forced down into the hold. At first I refused to go, until they threatened to stab me. When the robbers were leaving the ship I heard the word "sung." I went up on deck, and on examining the ship I missed my box. It contained about 50 pieces of clothing and a gold mounted bangle valued at \$7. Besides the ring I mentioned, I lost four other rings of the total value of \$150, which were in my box, also 74 gold beads worth \$72. I could not identify any of the robbers who came on board our junk.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING.

Major A. C. Painter, and Miss Katharine Turner, who arrived from England, by the s.s. *Chusan*, were married at St. John's Cathedral on the 31st January. A number of friends were present. Military officers wore "Review Order." His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., gave the bride away. Lieut. A. R. Hannay, R.E., was best man; and the two daughters of Col. Brown, R.E., bridesmaids. The Rev. F. T. Johnson, assisted by the Rev. G. Searle, Chaplain of the Forces, officiated. Mr. A. G. Ward acted as organist.

The following were invited to the reception at Government House:—General and Mrs. Hatton, Capt. Ward, Commodore and Mrs. Dioken, Miss Stilwell, Lieut. Butt, R.N., Col. and Mrs. Brown, Miss Brown, Miss E. Brown, Col. and Mrs. Kent, Col. and Mrs. Bunny, Col. and Mrs. Webb, Capt. and Mrs. Watkins, Major and Mrs. Pritchard, Capt. and Mrs. Barnes-Lawrence, Miss Barnes-Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Layton, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Danby, Mr. and Mrs. Tilden, Lieut. and Mrs. Mowbray, Capt. and Mrs. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton, Mr. and Mrs. Peter, Miss Watson, Col. and Mrs. Caulfield, Major Dopping Hepenstal, R.E., Major Le Breton-Simmons, R.E., Lieut. Cooper, R.E., Lieut. Dankes, R.E., Lieut. Rainsford-Hannay, R.E., Lieut. Hall, R.E., Lieut. Ogle, R.E., Lieut. Rogers, R.E., Lieut. Chesney, R.E., Lieut. Fisher, R.E., Lieut. Clark, R.E., Major Sparkes, R.A.M.C., Lieut. Craig, R.A.M.C., Lieut. Doran, A.S.C., Capt. and Mrs. Fitzwilliams, Mrs. Rowe, Capt. Wilkinson, R.N. (H.M.S. *Thetis*), Mr. R. J. R. Scott, R.N. (H.M.S. *Glory*), The Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Hoare, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Capt. Wakefield, R.A., Mrs. and Miss Wakefield, Capt. Jones, R.A., Major Parry, R.A., Major and Mrs. Kaye, Capt. and Mrs. Crichton, Major Josling, R.A.M.C., Major Phillips, R.A., Col. and Mrs. Mosse, Major Williamson, A.S.C., Capt. Gale, A.P.D., Col. Haynes, A.P.D., Major and Mrs. Chichester, Major and Mrs. Ross, Major and Mrs. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. J. Gompertz, Major and Mrs. Strickland, Capt. Nugent, R.A., Rev. Searle, Col. Western, Major Pedley, Capt. Ellgood, Mr. and Mrs. H. Moxon, Mr. S. T. Wenborn, Mr. N. S. Brown, Mr. H. W. Looker, Mr. and Mrs. Grace, Capt. and Mrs. Mackenzie-Grieve, Capt. Muller, R.M.L.I. (H.M.S. *Tamar*), Lieut. L. Gregson, Grenadier Guards, Capt. Ward, Mrs. Bryan, Miss Law, Mr. O. D. Thomson, Major and Mrs. Hurly, Major and Mrs. Thomson, Capt. and Mrs. Bush, Capt. and Mrs. Lambelle, Capt. and Mrs. Davies and Mr. and Mrs. Cruickshank.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT MORRISON HILL ROAD.

Sitting as Coroner at the Magistracy on the January 31st, Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz held an inquiry concerning the death of a coolie at No. 41, Morrison Hill Road, on the 25th inst., who was killed as the result of a wardrobe falling upon him. Messrs. N. S. Brown, A. Cameron, and E. Meikle were empanelled as a jury.

William Van Epps testified to engaging six coolies to remove the wardrobe. The rope was made fast to a beam running from one window to another on the third floor. As the wardrobe was being hauled up the six men began to walk under it. I told them to keep back and they

all got out of danger except this one man. The wardrobe had been hauled up about 22 feet when the rope broke. As far as I could see from above, deceased had hold of the end of the rope, and apparently did not try to get out of the way. The wardrobe struck the ground first, on one corner, and then fell back on deceased. He was pulled out from underneath, and the coolies rubbed him for some time with Chinese medicine. He then asked to be taken to the Tung Wah Hospital, and I sent two coolies with him, also an admission chit. One man came back shortly afterwards and reported to me that deceased was dead. The rope has been in use since March, 1904.

Dr. Hunter, medical officer in charge of post-mortem examinations, after examination found that deceased had met his death from shock, the result of a fracture of the pelvis.

R. H. Muckford, overseer in the Public Works Department, testified to examining the rope. Near the break there were short strands not more than one inch long; their shortness was not visible. The rope was rather dry, but with a steady strain it would be safe to lift five or six cwt. with it.

Further evidence was taken, and the Coroner adjourned.

ALARMING RIVER ACCIDENT AT CANTON.

On the 1st February an alarming affair occurred on the river at Canton, illustrating the reckless behaviour of Chinese to whom steam craft are entrusted for navigation.

Mr. E. A. Meurer, with his son, and M. Rochet, a gentleman interested in railway development in China, while in a row-boat on the river at Canton, were run down by a Chinese steam launch. Mr. Meurer thus told the story to a *Daily Press* reporter yesterday:—My son, my friend, and myself had a very narrow escape from drowning. I desire to speak about it so as to have launches be made to take more care in the future. First of all I must tell you that Messrs P. Lemaire & Co., a firm of which I am the proprietor, lately opened a branch in Canton, which is looked after by my son Charles. Our quarters are in the old American Consulate building, on the Honam side. We supply coolies for railway work every week, sending them by steamer up river. I had been to Honam in connection with this business, and the three of us were crossing in a gig to Canton, so that I might return to Hongkong. When about half way across, right in the current, when we had just avoided one launch, the launch *Choy Sing* came behind us. It all happened in a moment, as the launch was travelling very quickly. She did not alter her course but ran us down, capsizing our boat and passing right over us. Under water we were resting on the awning with the bottom of the boat over our head. The boat then came to the surface. My son cannot swim a stroke and I was very frightened on his account; I was the best swimmer of the three. An Imperial Customs boat in charge of Mr. Clarkson, rescued my son, and Mr. Rochet was picked up by a sampan, and our three sailors by another sampan. Mr. Rochet is in bed suffering congestion and a severe bronchial cold.

BIG FIRE AT WUCHOW.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

WUCHOW, 16th January.

A big fire broke out among the small shipping craft to-day. About a hundred lighters were destroyed. A Li Kum (tax boat), and a Mandarin boat (soldiers' boat) and a number of flower boats were burnt out. About two hundred persons were drowned. The steamers *Hang Hing* and *Hang Lee*, from down river, were unable to approach the port for some time on account of wreckage. Viceroy Shum offered a reward of \$1 for each body recovered from the water, so that they might be photographed, and the photos placarded. Relatives thereby were enabled to bury their dead. Bodies not identified were buried by the Kwong Yan and Po Sin Hospitals.

THE TRIPLE EXECUTION IN HONGKONG.

The *North-China Daily News* of the 23rd inst. had the following letter:—

SIR,—The execution of three foreigners in Hongkong is not a subject on which one would wish to dilate, and yet I think there are three facts connected therewith to which the attention of the Chinese should be strongly called:—

1.—It is often said—with what measure of truth I know not, but I have never heard the statement contradicted—that although many Chinese have within the past fifty years been put to death for the murder of foreigners, and while perhaps some foreigners have been put to death for the murder of other foreigners, no European or American has ever been executed in the Far East by order of a foreign Court of Justice for the murder of a Chinaman. That statement, if ever it was true, is not true now, and the charge so often brought against us that we attach no value to Chinese life is shown to be not in accordance with facts.

2.—The persons, the sanctity of whose life has now been vindicated in Hongkong, were not Chinamen of influence, literati or men of wealth, but a poor Chinese woman and her child. An innate sense of justice without distinction of persons, and not any pressure brought to bear on the Judge owing to the status and dignity of the victims, is the consideration that carries weight before a British tribunal.

3.—It has been stated that an effort was made in Hongkong to get one of the three prisoners reprieved, "the argument used being that as only two persons were killed two hangings should suffice." That is an argument that has again and again been used by Chinese officials in times of riot when one or two foreigners have been murdered by a band of ruffians who had organised themselves for the purpose. The principle has been stoutly resisted by British Consuls, who have insisted that it had no relevancy. As foreign officials have acted in this matter in the past—and as they will no doubt act again should the sad necessity arise in vindicating the sacredness of the lives of foreigners,—so also have the authorities in Hongkong now acted when dealing with foreigners convicted of killing Chinese subjects. Foreign Judges are not immaculate, nor are they always free from all bias and partiality, but the prevailing characteristic of British administration of justice everywhere is even-handed justice and even-handed regard for the sanctity of life without regard of nationality, and these points have had a typical illustration in the sad circumstances which have lately occurred in Hongkong.—I am, etc.,

A EUROPEAN RESIDENT.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS AT KOWLOON.

The 114th Mahrattas on the 26th January held regimental sports on the Kowloon Parade Ground, in commemoration of the capture of Mahadeagarth Fort. The ground afforded a bright spectacle. A number of ladies were present. The greater part of the course was outlined by Indians in white robes and turbans. Disagreeable showers were experienced, but these were rendered the less disagreeable for visitors by the tent accommodation provided. His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, and His Excellency Major-General Villiers Hatton, were present. The band of the regiment played selections between events. The sports commenced at 4 p.m. and concluded at 6 p.m. Results were as follows:—

100 yards flat race.—There were eleven entries. Sheik Abdur Rahmin was first; Gangnak Donak, second; and Gul Mahomed and Govin Sawant made a dead heat for third.

1-mile flat race.—For this event 22 entered the field. Gul Mahomed was first; Sao Laji Maul, second; and Dhondi Nalgi, third. Time, 2 min. 32 sec.

Recruits' Race; 300 yards.—Ittnak Pandriak was first; Sheik Umar, second; and Babu Kalgudi, third. Time, 38 4/5 sec.

1-mile (open to Indian troops).—Bhag Shah was first; Ganga Singh, second; Narayin Singh, third. All three were of the 93rd Burmas. Time, 2 min. 18 sec.

1-mile relay race (four men per company).—This was won by No. 1 double company. Time, 4 min. 24 sec.

Native officers' race.—There were eleven starters. The race was won by Jemadar Rama Kadan.

1/4-mile (open to Fleet and British Troops).—This event was won by Gunner W. Brown, 83rd Co. R.G.A., with Gunner H. Brown, same regiment, second. Time, 2 min. 38 sec.

Tug-of-war (ten men per double company).—This was won by No. 1 double company, the length of pull being 2 min. 40 sec.

Followers' race.—Eight entered for this event. Surjil Singh was first; Sheik Giaz, second; and Luchimon Shunkar, third.

British officers' race; 120 yards.—Eighteen entered for this event. Colonel Moss was first; Lieut. Black, second; Major Wilkins, third; and Major Ross, fourth. Colonel Moss won easily by about five yards.

Sack fighting (four men per double company).—A very amusing event. The contestants were in sacks and had to shove their opponents out of a square. No. 1 double company won.

Senior Wranglers' Competition; each gentleman ran fifty yards to his partner and handed her a paper containing conundrums. First back to post with correct answers won. About eighteen entered. The result was as follows:—

Lieut. Branson, 110th Mahrattas, nominated by Miss Beavis, 1.

Major Ramsen, 114th Mahrattas, nominated by Mrs. McFarlane, 2.

Lieut. Graham, 114th Mahrattas, nominated by Mrs. Willow, 3.

The conundrums were as follows:—

1. When is a goat nearly?
2. What was the largest island in the world before the discovery of Australia?

3. Write in figures eleven thousand, eleven hundred and eleven.

4. If 1 lb. of salmon costs one shilling and ninepence, and haddock costs one-sixth of that sum, what would be the price of 2 1/2 lbs. of salmon.

The final contest was a meleé on mules. Each side consisted of four Indians armed with long sticks who had to knock feathers from their opponents' heads.

Mrs. Villiers Hatton gave away the prizes.

There was afterwards a very pretty fire club display and lantern parade.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT YAUMATI.

Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, sitting as Coroner, held an inquiry at the Magistracy on the 24th January into the cause of death of Ah Mui, a Chinese female aged about thirteen years, who was killed by a fall from the verandah of a house. The following jury were empanelled Messrs J. Young, J. Osborne and H. Krebs.

The first witness was Dr. Bell, Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, who gave evidence as to deceased's admission, and her death two hours afterwards. He made a post-mortem examination, and found that her breast bone was broken. Death was caused by internal hemorrhage.

Inspector Macdonald deposed:—I entered a house No. 53, Kennedy Street, on the 5th instant, with a Chinese detective. I found a man, woman, and two girls in the one room and another girl in a second room. This girl was under a bed. The detective took her by the hand and pulled her out. She was left alone in the passage while we went to get the other residents of the house. I missed deceased, and hearing a noise in the backyard went to see what was the matter. Deceased was lying on the ground. There was an open bridge leading from the passage to the cook-house.

She must have either jumped over the bridge, or tried to climb down the drain pipe. The detective took the man, woman, and two girls to the Police Station. I went to attend the deceased. I sent for an ambulance and had her removed to the Government Civil Hospital. Deceased did not scream or make any fuss when brought from under the bed. I had no idea that she was likely to do what she did. The information which determined me to raid the house was, that I was informed three girls were being detained there, and were being offered for sale as prostitutes. The deceased appeared to be about eleven or twelve years of age. There is a great deal of

traffic done in young girls in this Colony. On receiving information I did not wait for a warrant to enter the house, as I was afraid the girls would be removed. The man and woman were charged before Mr. Hazeland with bringing the girls into the Colony for an unlawful purpose, and were discharged.

Detective Chan Cheong corroborated the Inspector's evidence, and P.S. 166 gave evidence as to identification.

The Coroner briefly reviewed the facts, and the jury, without retiring, returned a verdict that deceased met her death by misadventure while trying to escape from the Police.

CHINESE THREATS.

For their interest as evidence of the working of the mind Chinese in a state of annoyance, the following extracts from recent speeches made at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, at Shanghai, may be read:—

The Taotai said that to have a strike or to stop trade in Shanghai is not the thing to be recommended at this moment, as it is the Russians against whom we feel indignant and other foreigners are quite different from the Russians. Therefore we had better discuss how to treat the Russians in Shanghai only. My suggestions are (1) to stop communications with the Russians, (2) to stop dealing with the Russians in any business. The Russo-Chinese Bank and the Russian merchant in Shanghai from the beginning of the war have been doing business with the natives without any disadvantage though we do not know if they had been able to deal with a certain portion of the natives to get military supplies. In any case if we stop dealing with the Russians in business it is quite sure that the Russians will suffer from the effect. The Russian Consul once told me that though a Russian might kill a Chinaman he will never lose his life. Such is the way we are looked down on by the Russians. I propose the two items of steps to be adopted by you.

A certain Ningponese Chou said:—I am the president of the guild of Tinghai and I am very indignant at the insult upon us by foreigners in this matter and when I heard the news of one of my native countrymen Chou Sen-yu having been innocently killed by Russian sailors I felt extremely bitter in the matter and I think it is far better to stop all the trade in Shanghai unless the foreigners give us satisfaction. I can tell all the men under me to stop work.

I hope all without any exception will unite in carrying out these two items of proposals, not only the Ningponese but all the merchants in Shanghai must unite in the carrying out the same or they will not be effective. The Russian sailor killed an innocent Chinese and the Russian authorities are taking the side of the Russian sailors and we understand that they are treating the Chinese worse than beasts. If we do not take up proper action in this matter to protect our own interest it means that we are recognizing ourselves as similar to beasts ourselves. If so it is no wonder to see foreigners look down on us (great cheers).

CHANTABOON EVACUATED.

The last detachment of French troops left Chantaboon-Paknam at 2 p.m. on the 8th January. The evacuation has, therefore, been completed a day within the ten days fixed by the Protocol of June 29th last, which were to run from December 30th, the day on which the territories ceded to France under the Treaty were placed at the disposal of the French Authorities.

Before his departure, the Commandant of the French troops issued a proclamation, stating that a treaty had been concluded between France and Siam, which removed all difficulties and strengthened the friendly relations between the two countries. There was, therefore, no reason why the French troops should remain any longer in Chantaboon. A Consul would be stationed to look after the interests of French subjects. In taking leave he trusted that all the inhabitants of Chantaboon, both French and Siamese subjects, would enjoy prosperity in the future.

LAND SALES.

On the 30th January, at the office of the Public Works Department, two lots of Crown land were let by public auction, under the usual terms and conditions, for periods of 75 years, with the option of renewal, for further periods of 75 years, at Crown rents to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King.

The first lot put up was Inland Lot No. 1162, situated at Hok Un, adjoining Kowloon Inland Lot No. 635, containing 4,287 square feet, and carrying an annual Crown rent of \$24. The upset price for this lot was \$1,715. Mr. Ho Moon Sang bid \$20 over the reserve and secured the property.

The second lot sold was Marine Lot No. 87 situated at Yaumati, containing 145,350 square feet, and carrying an annual Crown rent of \$1,668. The upset price for this lot was fixed at \$72,676. Mr. Henry Humphreys, Mr. J. Orange, and Mr. J. R. Michael appeared as interested bidders for this most desirable property. Mr. H. Humphreys was overbidden by Mr. Michael, who, at \$72,876, obtained this valuable site at a fraction over fifty cents per square foot. Mr. Humphreys' only bid was one of \$100 above the Government reserve.

A special condition attaching to the purchase is that the Crown lessee shall, within three days of the day of sale, pay into the Colonial Treasury the sum of \$15,000 of the full amount of premium at which the lot shall have been purchased by him and the remainder within one month of the date of sale.

Executive Engineer S. C. Rees acted as the auctioneer in both instances.

A CHINESE WAY OF STOPPING LEAKAGE.

Owing to its having come to the knowledge of the Empress Dowager that many of her indigent and badly paid officials at Court have been getting large and in some cases regular revenues from the secret service funds of many of the foreign Powers represented in Peking by the sale of copies of important State documents and the like, which are supposed to be "secret" until published in the "Peking Gazette," their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress Dowager have commanded that all State documents intended for the sole eyes of their Majesties are to be hereafter handed up in the Manchu language enclosed in specially made sealed envelopes and put in locked despatch boxes. Should the business contained in these State papers be required to be made public, they will be translated into Chinese and published, but not otherwise. As few persons, even Manchus themselves, are able now-a-days to read the Manchu written language, it is thought by their Majesties that this procedure will be a reliable means of stopping the leakage of important State documents, the knowledge of which would otherwise be transmitted to those who have no right to know them, but which they have hitherto obtained by the assistance of the Almighty Dollar.

THE HAMBURG AMERIKA S.S. "RHENANIA."

The Hamburg Amerika Linie s.s. *Rhenania*, 6,416 tons gross, on her maiden trip from Europe, has arrived at Kowloon. She is a fine steamer specially adapted for the Far Eastern out and home trade. She is built for cargo, but has berths for about sixty passengers. Twenty large staterooms, about 10 feet by 15 by 7½ high, afford airy quarters. In each are two bunks and a collapsible sofa. Each cabin is provided with an electric fan, an electric table reading light and two electric bulb lights overhead. The fittings throughout are plain but good; and the vessel is well provided in the way of smoking rooms, ladies' rooms, social halls etc. She is capable of carrying some 10,000 tons of general cargo. She was built at the Bremer Vulcan Yard; and finished last December. Her speed is 13 knots.

An entertainment is to be given on the steamer on Monday evening from 4 o'clock until 6, and an invitation is given to all friends to inspect the ship.

THE AMERICAN CONSUL AT SHANGHAI.

Under the quadruple heading of "Perjury Grafting and Fraud—Seventeen Grave Charges stand against Ex-Consul-General John Goodnow—Is Defiant and Poses as Victim—Long a Disgrace to the United States He Must Now Face the Inevitable at Washington," the *Manila Cablenews* publishes the following telegram:—Washington, January 26.—John Goodnow, lately the consul-general of the United States at Shanghai, is to face the most extraordinary charges of malfeasance in office, of personal dishonesty, and of general corruption.

There are seventeen separate charges of fraud, perjury and embezzlement against him. These charges have been filed with the Secretary of State, and will be gone into minutely. Goodnow arrived here recently from Shanghai, having been dismissed from his consular position.

He came in a defiant attitude, asserting his innocence of any wrongdoing, and declaring in many interviews in the various newspapers of the United States, that he was the victim of the machinations of personal enemies whose schemes he had refused to further in Shanghai.

He made rather a good impression at first. The State department though had conclusive reports from its assistant secretary, Mr. Pierce, as to Goodnow's conduct in his Shanghai office, and continued its investigations. Goodnow has been succeeded at Shanghai by Mr. Davidson, formerly consul in Formosa, and who was appointed consul to Antung seven or eight months ago.

PROPOSED FRENCH STEAMBOAT COMPANY IN CHEKIANG.

Our Shanghai contemporary's "Native Notes" include this item:—As may be recalled by our readers a French Company have been anxiously trying to get the high provincial authorities of Chekiang to run a steamboat line between Shanghai, Hangchow and Shaohsing, which for certain local and also patriotic reasons H.E. Governor Nieh, of Hangchow, has consistently vetoed so far, especially in view of the fact that the terms of the recent commercial treaties made by China with the Foreign Powers have not yet been put into force. Once this is done the navigation of inland waters by foreign-owned vessels becomes, of course, allowable. We now hear that news having been received by Governor Nieh (formerly also Taotai of Shanghai) that the eagerness of the French steamboat owners may possibly force them to attempt to run their boats to Hangchow and Shaohsing without waiting for legalities and the permission of the Chekiang provincial authorities, his Excellency has telegraphed Yuan Taotai of this port to ask the Commissioner of Customs here to prevent any such contretemps.

BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION (LIMITED).

The report for the year ended June 30 states that, owing to delays in negotiations with the Chinese and other unavoidable circumstances, the Corporation was unable to place any of its interests during the period embraced by the accounts, but in the following month (July) it made the first issue of £2,250,000, part of the Chinese Government Loan of £3,250,000, for the construction of the Shanghai to Nanking Railway. The financial result of the operation will appear in the accounts for the current year. The Corporation holds provisional agreements for the issue of loans for the construction of other railways for which it has made the preliminary surveys, including that from Canton to Kowloon, which project is receiving special consideration at the present time. As the result of his visit to the coal field the colliery expert, referred to in last year's report, formed a most favourable opinion of the Nanpiao concession and negotiations are in progress with the Imperial Chinese Railway Administration, who are jointly interested with the Corporation in the undertaking, for the formation of a company to develop and work the colliery. The Northern Railway Loan, which was issued by the Cor-

poration in 1899, provided for the construction of a branch line to the colliery, and part of the proceeds of the loan have been specially set aside for this purpose. In accordance with the agreement with the Pekin Syndicate (Limited), a company with the title of Chinese Central Railways (Limited) has been formed, and has taken over, with the exceptions agreed upon, the railway interests of the Corporation and of the syndicate north of the Yangtse. The Corporation has been refunded its outlay on the interests transferred and it holds 22,500 shares of £1 each in the Chinese Central Railways (Limited), subscribed for at par, and upon which 6s. per share, or £6,750 in the aggregate, has been paid up.

HONGKONG.

Mr. G. Sim has been appointed an Inspector of Nuisances under the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance of 1896.

The names of G. J. B. Sayer, J. C. Lowe, and A. P. Samy have been added to the list of authorised architects at Hongkong.

His Excellency the Governor has appointed R. A. Nicholson to be a Surveyor of Boilers in all unlicensed steamships of less than sixty tons burden.

A Shanghai beachcomber on his begging rounds walked off with a raincoat and umbrella while the "boy" went to announce his visit. The umbrellas, etc., now disappearing at Hongkong are perhaps not all taken by Chinese.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint George Herbert Wakeman, Assistant Land Officer, to act as Land Officer and Official Receiver in Bankruptcy during the illness of Bruce Shepherd, I.S.O., or until further notice.

The total number of plague cases on 1st inst. was ten, the previous week having added three, one of which was imported from Shanghai. One European was reported down with enteric, and there is the case of smallpox imported from Shanghai. Tientsin contributed a case of relapsing fever. The return of 31st ult. added two more plague cases, one a Chinese found dead near the Gas Works.

Mr. F. Loureiro has joined the H.K.V.A., and Messrs. H. W. Lochead and A. S. Mason have joined the H.K.V. Engineer Company. Gunner H. C. Austen, H.K.V.A., has been granted six months' leave of absence. Gunners H. D. Ball and G. Blood, H.K.V.A., have been promoted to Bombardiers. Corporal R. Lapsley, H.K.V.E., has been promoted to Sergeant. Second Corporal J. H. Witchell, H.K.V.E., has been promoted to Corporal.

Burck and Wel, two sailors of the s.s. *Forest Hall*, were charged before Mr. Hazeland at the Police Court on Feb. 1 with behaving in a disorderly manner at West Point on Tuesday night last. In a fight, Wel is said to have stabbed his antagonist in the back, and was in his turn felled with a belaying pin by an onlooker. The defendants were each fined \$5 and bound over in the sum of \$100 personal security to keep the peace for two months.

The Hongkong Police received certain information on the 29th January which enabled them to catch three Chinese named Au Sang, Ho Sing and Mack Sang red-handed in a robbery. The prisoners broke into a house at Po Ning Hong, bound and gagged the occupants, two women, and were departing with \$125 worth of clothing and \$2,275 worth of jewellery when arrested. Placed before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on 31st January, all three pleaded guilty, and the case was remanded in February, 1903, subordinate members of the Civil Service of Hongkong who had been in the service of the Government for periods varying from three to thirty years requested Sir Henry Blake, then Governor, to forward a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. They pleaded that during their term of service the salaries attached to their respective offices had never been materially altered, while there had been a steady depreciation in the value of the currency of the Colony, in which these salaries had been and were calculated. Sir Henry Blake forwarded the petition, but did not recommend that the request be acceded to. His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan has now been approached on the same subject.

At about 11.30 a.m. on Feb. 1 a Chinese boy was knocked down by an electric tram. His skull was fractured. He was removed to Government Civil Hospital.

Before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz sitting as coroner, and a jury, an inquiry was held at the Magistracy yesterday afternoon into the cause of death of a coolie named Kan Lui Tsz, who was run over by a movable crane in the Naval Extension Dockyard. The evidence led proved that deceased had been run over while going to a nullah for a drink of water, while Dr. Hunter's testimony showed that death was due to a fracture of the pelvis. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

At Happy Valley on January 39th, on the annexe to the racecourse, Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers, sold the privileges in connection with the forthcoming races, which are to be erected between the Golf Club and the Grand Stand, north of the Grand Stand enclosure, as follows:—Lots 1, \$210, Mr. Xavier, proprietor of the Hongkong Printing Press; 2, \$270, 3, \$150, and 4, \$250, Mr. Lesbirel, Steward of the V.R.C.; 5, \$200, Mr. Vass; 6, \$170, Mr. Razack; 7, \$320, Mr. Remedios; 8, \$215, and 9, \$145, Messrs. Ritchie and Co.; 10, \$140, Mr. Ho Chuk Wai; 11, \$160, Mr. Lang Tai; 12, \$200, and 13, \$165, Mr. T. Arakawa of the Japanese Club; 14, \$90, Mr. Yee Pak Hung; 15, \$60, Mr. Sam Yee; 16, \$35, Mr. Razack; 17, \$30, Mr. Lortis; 18, \$95, and 19, \$105, Mr. Ah Nin. The total amount realised from these privileges is \$3,010.

An amusing mistake occurred at the Police Court on January 30th. Inspector Collett of No. 7 Station had a case wherein two natives charged with creating a disturbance were out on bail. Inspector Macdonald of Yaumati had a similar case. When the West Point case was called on before Mr. Gompertz one of the West Point offenders and one of the offenders from Yaumati were placed in the dock. The West Point disturber of the peace was telling His Worship how the second defendant, assisted by ten other men, had set upon him and given him a sound thrashing. The Yaumati offender informed the Bench that the first defendant went to his eating house and ordered "chow," for which he refused to pay. Neither defendant was aware that he had not met the other in combat until Inspector Collett appeared in Court and explained matters! The second defendant in this case was then put in the dock with the first, and after hearing their stories, His Worship inflicted a fine of \$3 each.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

It is suggested that Baron Speck von Sternberg may be transferred to one of the European capitals, and be succeeded at Washington by Baron Mumm von Schwartzstein, now German Minister to China.

The *Foochow Echo* says that a scheme is on foot for the formation of Golf Links on the Recreation Ground. The links are to lie entirely within the creek which separates the Race Course from the rest of the Recreation Ground. Arrangements are to be made that they shall not interfere with cricket or lawn tennis, whilst no extra expense is involved except possibly a small extra subscription from the votaries of the new game.

A hotel keeper interviewed by a *Cablenews* reporter said that at Manila any American with a clean suit and often when it isn't clean, can get board at about any place in town simply for the asking, the proprietor trusting to his honesty to pay up at the end of the month. If he takes a hand-bag some fine morning and says that he is going out into the provinces for a few days, he is taken at his word. He can be well past Hongkong before anything is suspected.

It is reported, *a propos* the present illness of the Empress Dowager's favourite retainer, the well-known chief Eunuch, Li Lien-ying, who has been lying sick for the past three weeks from a combination of causes, and whose suffering the doctors of the Imperial College of Physicians in the capital have been at their wits' end to alleviate, that the Empress Dowager is much alarmed at the condition of her favourite, and has therefore offered a reward of one thousand taels to the physician who shall effect a cure.

The *Manila Cablenews* says:—"Thirteen charges of fraud have been filed against former Consul-General Goodnow. That number of rascally dealings is enough to make anybody unlucky." The best Americans, like the English, reserve such comments until a man is proven guilty. The *Cablenews* does not represent the best Americans.

The *Tientsin Times* reports that of the fifty-two head of cattle on Messrs. Walte and Co.'s farm forty-seven have already died, including the two imported bulls. Of the four remaining cows, one is expected to die at any time, while the others are all ailing. None of the other farms have suffered from rinderpest. Much sympathy will be felt with Mr. Walte, who started this farm with so much public spirit, and spared neither money nor pains to make it a success. It is the more unfortunate that the loss has occurred during his absence.

During the trial of H. B. Collins at Yokohama, as a Russian spy, the accused stated that he is a British subject and was born in Hongkong. He is 40 years old. His parents died in Yokohama some years ago. He arrived at Yokohama accompanied by his parents when he was an infant. In 1898 he went to China, and thence to Port Arthur, where he was employed by a firm. After the outbreak of the war, he removed to Tientsin in June, 1904, when he received instructions from Colonel Ogorodinkoff to proceed to Japan to act as a spy. He sent his reports to Mr. Mondon of Shanghai, who in turn handed them to General Dessino.

Another step in the introduction of Western education into the Chinese Empire has just been taken, says the *Glasgow Herald*, by the provincial government of Chili in the appointment of Mr. Jas. Russell Henderson, B.Sc. of Glasgow, to a newly-created professorship of chemistry and physics in the Provincial College of Chili at Paoting-fu, North China. Mr. Henderson was educated at Hutchesons' Grammar School and at the University of Glasgow, where he graduated in science, and for a time acted as a demonstrator in the chemical department. While at the University he was associated with Dr. Carriek Anderson in his researches on Indian and Japanese coal, and during the last three years has gained additional experience in practical metallurgy as chemist to the engineering firm of Glenfield & Kennedy (Limited), Kilmarnock. The new professor enters on his duties at Paoting-fu after the Chinese New Year.

Steps are being taken in Peking, among the Chinese merchants, for the organisation of a Board of Trade. They have received the consent and co-operation of the Board of Commerce, who have agreed to appoint two subordinate officials to attend every other day and assist in settling matters that otherwise might take the time and trouble of the larger Board. Small difficulties are to be settled here and plans made for extending the commercial interests of the city. The location has been decided on, not far outside the main gate of the city. Also, says the *N. C. Daily News*, the establishment of a bank has been decided on. The bank is to be opened for business in the first month of the New Year. The bank-notes are to be printed in Japan and a special commissioner is to go to Japan and see to the printing of bills to the extent of three million taels.

The *Manila Cablenews* says:—"It is certain that the small stores in Manila—those kept by Chinese and Filipinos—will not lose anything under the new revenue law if they continue to find customers to purchase what they offer for sale. The dealers in poultry, fish and similar domestic products have advanced their prices all along the line, under the excuse that the new internal revenue tax will absorb their profits. For example, a small chicken could be purchased in Manila for about thirty-five cents, local currency, before the first of the year. The price is now sixty cents. The small booth keepers have advanced the price of their goods all the way from twenty to fifty per cent., and give as an excuse that the demands of the new internal revenue law must be met. It is to be regretted that the Government could not exact one half of all advance in price over and above that actually required by the new revenue, where such advance is based on the excuse that is now given by the small dealer."

TRADE ITEMS.

North Kiangsu is much interested in the proposed glass factory. Much brick and lime is in evidence. The Chinese are chagrined at the thought that for 3,000 years they have regarded this sandy waste only as a nuisance and that the foreigner had to come and show them how to use it.

Notwithstanding the present tightness of the money market, we learn that Messrs. Soares & Co. have been successful in selling some large and valuable lands in Kowloon. Kowloon Marine Lot No. 47 was sold in December for \$250,000, and the same firm have just concluded the sale of the adjoining lot, No. 48, which fetched \$191,918.25.

The *Nagasaki Press* says that the Japanese Minister at Seoul has entered into negotiation with the Korean Government on some important demands preferred by Japan. It is reported that the Japanese Government desires to have permission granted by the Korean authorities for Japanese steamers to freely engage in the Korean coasting trade, to have all Korean Ministers recalled from foreign countries, and also to be entrusted with the management of the post and telegraph business on condition that the means of communications be made one of Korea's good sources of revenue by the efforts of the Japanese Government.

In answer to the statement made by the labour unions of San Francisco in a protest against the reduction of the Dingley tariff on Philippine cigars and cigarettes, to the effect that "coolie labour" was employed in the cigar factories in the islands, the Filipino Cigar Makers Union of Manila sent the following cablegram to President Roosevelt:—"Filipino cigar makers protest against the false statement of the San Francisco workmen who allege that we employ Chinese labour to manufacture cigars. We appeal to the generosity of the American people for free admission for Philippine manufactured tobacco, as a natural consequence of American sovereignty."

U.S. Consul Anderson, of Hangchow, says:—There is practically no demand for agricultural implements in China up to date, and present indications are that it will be a long time, except in Manchuria and North China, before the conditions will be such that modern farm machinery will be useful to the Chinese with their small garden farms and cheap labour. At present the native tools are such as have been in use for centuries. They are not good tools, perhaps, but they are made cheaply and are used by cheap labour. In several instances within my observation small garden force pumps have been welcomed by progressive gardeners, and I am of the opinion that small garden hand ploughs will also be well received. It is possible that cheap but substantial American rakes and hoes could be sold. It is well to bear in mind that the general introduction of a single one of these articles in China would mean the sale of an immense number. Chinese farmers are commencing to consider foreign ideas and methods, and there will soon be a breaking up of present methods and a turning to new tools.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons's Silk Circular dated Shanghai, 21st January, 1905, states:—The home markets are quiet, Gold Killing is quoted in London at 12s. and in Lyons at Fcs. 34. Raw Silk—This week Tattees have been in greater demand for Europe, but in Coarse Silks little business has transpired. Yellow Silk—A moderate business is Mienyangs and Mainchows has been done. Hand Filatures.—Very little business doing. Steam Filatures.—We have not heard of a single transaction. Waste Silk.—There has been some demand for Tussah Waste as holders came down in their ideas of price. Woosieh pierced Cocoons, 68 per cent. silk, have been bought at Tls. 69/71.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 26th January, states:—The serious news received

during the week, of the incipient revolution in European Russia, has to a great extent diverted attention from the progress of the War in the North. The consequent interruption in the forwarding of supplies to the huge Army now assembled in Manchuria, already quite inadequately provided for, can only mean that it is on the verge of a terrible calamity, much too horrible to contemplate. It is, therefore, satisfactory to learn that the Great Powers consider the time has about arrived when they might offer to mediate, though probably nothing can now prevent the sanguinary battle both sides have been preparing for weeks past, and which is now imminent. Meanwhile the refugees from Port Arthur, though not arriving here in any great numbers yet, are making a decided impression on our Exchange market, and it is now beginning to look uncertain if the anticipated decline in rates will take place immediately after China New Year or not. Under the circumstances the situation here remains as complex as ever. Piece Goods.—Business, so far as most importers are concerned, remains deadly dull, but the dealers are busy reselling to the country merchants, mostly for delivery the latter part of next month, though a considerable quantity of American goods have been bought on easy terms for cash in the northern markets. In English makes a commencement has been made by the Hankow merchants at fairly satisfactory prices, judging by the resales published, the dealers here having made a compact to maintain values. First hand holders have also been able to place a little, but the quantity they have available is very limited. The Manchester market is steady with more demand, for India presumably. No very appreciable decline is noticeable in prices, unless for distant delivery. Cotton is lower again, Mid-American being quoted 3.71d. in Liverpool and Egyptian 6.75d. The New York market is also keeping very steady, as can be seen by the purchase of some 3 yards Sheetings at 10s. 31d. Cotton there is quoted 6.59 cents for March and 6.64 cents for April. There is a much better feeling in the yarn market, a considerable business having been done in imported spinnings both for cash and after New Year delivery. The local cotton market is also firmer.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th January.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 180.00
" 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00
Reported sales 10,000 bales.	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00
9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00
58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60
64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40
Fine 6.10 to 8.00	
Book-folds 5.30 to 8.10	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.80 to 1.00
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.70 to 3.00
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70
7lbs. (32 "), "	2.90 to 3.20
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 30.8
Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/4 " to 14 lbs.)	5.10 to 8.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs.)	1.75 to 4.00
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per year

Brocades—Dyed 0.13 to 0.14	
Da masks —	
Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 1/2 to 0.20	
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.23 to 0.50	
Velveteens—18 in. 0.23 to 0.27	

per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.56 to 1.25
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WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.70 to 2.10
German 0.60 to 0.85	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	7.80 to 9.25
Assorted 7.95 to 9.40	
Camlets—Assorted.....	13.00 to 32.00

	per piece
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 12.50 to 20.00	
Assorted }	
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —
	per lb
Blankets—5 to 12 lbs.	0.65 to .85
	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.00 to —	
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	3.95 to —
Swedish Bar 4.00 to —	
Small Round Rod 4.30 to —	
Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in. 6.20 to —	
Wire, 16/25 oz. 9.50 to —	
Wire Rope, Old 8.00 to —	
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.25 to —
Australian 8.55 to —	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	38.50 to —
Tin.....	80.00 to —
	per box
Tin-Plates 7.70 to —	
	per cwt. cases
Steel 1/2 to 1 6.00 to —	
	per picul—
Quicksilver 128.00 to —	
	per box—
Window Glass 5.25 to —	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, January 25th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected Tls. 85.00	
Do. Seconds " 81.00	
Buffalo hides, Best Selected " 18.50	
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	55.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	9.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	11.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayy	—
Green China Grass, Szechuen	10.00
Jute 4.30	
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow.....	9.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	9.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	11.50
Animal Tallow 10.00	
Gallnuts, Usual shape.....	17.00
Do. Plum do.	18.20
Tobacco, Tingchow..... (nominal) "	—
Do. Wongkong (") "	—
Black Bristles (nom.)	
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ..	21.00
" " Wild Duck	25.00
Turmeric " "	3.00
Sesamum Seed 4.00	
Sesamum Seed Oil 7.90	
Vegetable Tallow Seed-Oil	7.90
Wood Oil 7.80	
Tea Oil 9.00	

Per steamer *Hyson*, for Amsterdam, London and Antwerp, sailed on 23rd January. For Suez:—22 rolls matting, 60 packages crackers. For London:—179 cases chinaware, &c., 1,795 rolls matting, 634 bales canes, 41 cases shells, 41 packages essential oil, 150 casks ginger, 100 casks soy, 500 cases ginger, 15 cases private effects. For London or Glasgow:—150 cases preserves. For London or Hamburg:—515 bales canes. For London or Manchester:—225 bales waste silk. For London or Continent:—641 bales canes, 119 bags ore, 244 bales duckfeathers, 200 cases cassia, 453 rolls matting. For Copenhagen:—134 bales feathers. For Antwerp or Amsterdam:—3 cases chinaware. For Amsterdam:—783 rolls matting, 12 cases chinaware, 50 cases cassia. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam:—155 cases ginger, 189 rolls matting, 10 bales canes, 22 cases chinaware. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—169 bales feathers, 20 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—150 bales feathers.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on 28th January. For Manchester:—550 bales waste silk. For London:—9 cases manila hats, 7 cases cigars, 5 cases private effects, 147 rolls mats and matting, 116 packages tea, 252 bales waste silk, 40 bales raw silk, 5 cases silks. For Carthage:—100 cases cassia. For Milan:—80 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—237 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—150 bales waste silk, 261 bales raw silk, 50 rolls mats, 2 cases silks, 15 packages human hair, 267 bales pierced cocoons. For Gibraltar:—1 case curios.

Per steamer *Australien*, sailed on 24th January. For Marseilles:—205 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 36 cases silk piece goods, 67 bales human hair, 193 bales mats, 278 packages tea, 252 bales mineral ore, 100 bales canes, 132 bales pierced cocoons, 32 packages provisions, 17 cases hats, 2 cases feathers, 3 bales hemp, 3 packages sundries. For Lyons:—400 bales raw silk. For Milan:—55 bales raw silk. For London:—30 bales raw silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd February, 1905.—Owing to the Chinese New Year holidays our report is this week issued a day earlier than usual. During the interval under review, business has continued somewhat dull, but at the close there is a decidedly better feeling apparent, and in some instances improved quotations have been established.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled steady with small sales at \$720. London now quotes £75. Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are quiet with small sales at \$70. China Traders have been placed at \$58½. Yangtszes have improved to \$160, and Cantons to \$255, both closing in request. North Chinas are still in the market at Tls. 95.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas have improved to \$93, and Hongkongs have again been booked at \$340 cash; the latter being still procurable at the rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have eased off to \$26 sellers, owing to the announcement of a reduction in the dividend for the last half year to \$1 per share instead of \$1½ as paid formerly, and our market closes weak at this quotation. Indo-Chinas have been booked at \$123 and \$123½, and close firmer with buyers at \$124. Shells have been booked at 22½, and more shares are procurable at this figure. China and Manila, Douglasses, and Star Ferries are unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are firmer with buyers at \$220 cash; forward business has been done for April at \$228 and \$230, and for September at \$240, more shares being wanted at the latter quotations. Luzons have improved to \$22½ with sales and further buyers.

MINING.—No business has transpired under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after sales at \$209, dropped to \$207, but are firmer again with small sales and further buyers at \$208. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have been booked at \$104½ (old) and \$102 (new), and more shares are procurable at these rates. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$27. Farnhams have improved to Tls. 153 with local buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have declined to \$134 ex the dividend of \$6 per share for the half year ending 31st December, 1904, paid on the 31st ultimo. Kowloon Lands and West Points are quiet, but steady at \$37 and \$57½ ex dividend respectively. Hongkong Hotels are reported to have been booked at \$141. Humphreys' Estates have improved to \$13 and \$12½ for the old and new issues respectively. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 115.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are unchanged and no business is reported in this section.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have declined to \$15 sellers, and Green Island Cements to \$28½ sellers. Fenwicks have dropped to \$43 sellers, and China Light and Powers to \$9½ sellers. Ices have been booked at \$255, and Ropes at \$155, the latter closing with further sellers. Electrics continue in request at \$15 and \$9 for the old and new issues respectively, and Steam Laundries at \$7 and \$4.

MEMOS:—Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 10th February, transfer books closed on the 1st instant. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 14th instant, transfer books closed on the 31st ultimo. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 20th instant, transfer books close on the 4th to the 20th instant, inclusive. Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 13th instant, transfer books close on the 3rd to the 13th instant, inclusive. Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation half-yearly meeting on the 18th instant, transfer books close on the 4th to the 18th instant, inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$720 { L'don, £75.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$38
B. Shares	£8	\$38
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$700, sellers.
China Traders	\$25	\$58½, sales
North China	£5	Tls. 95, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$160
Canton	\$50	\$255, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$93
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$26, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$124, buyers
China and Manila...	\$50	\$23
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$38, sellers
	\$5	\$29, sellers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	£1	22½, sales
Do. pref. shares....	£10	£3. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$220, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22½ sales & buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10d.	\$3½
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$208, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	{ 104½, old { \$102, new sels.
New Amoy Dock ...	\$6½	\$27 sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 153, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv	\$100	\$134, ex div., sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$37, ex div., sal s
West Point Building	\$50	\$57½, ex div., sal.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$14, buyers
Humphreys' Estate. {	\$10	\$13
	\$2½	\$12½
S'hai Land Ins. Co. Ld.	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 24
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 30
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$13
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5½
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.,	\$25	\$43, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$28½, sellers
	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong Electric {	\$5	\$91, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	\$160, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$265
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$255, sales
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$155, sellers
Hk. Steam Water- }		
Boat Co., Ld.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Phippine Tobacco }		
Trust Co., Ld.	\$10	\$91, sellers
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and }	\$50	\$50
Cleaning Co., Ld. }		
S. C. Morning Post ...	\$25	\$22
China Light & Power }		
Co., Ld.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Steam Laundry Co., }	\$5	\$7, buyers
	\$3	\$4, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½
Do	\$10	\$7.80
Watkins, Ld	\$10	\$9, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. }	\$10	\$12½, sales
	\$10	\$12, buyers
William Powell, Ld....	\$10	\$12½ sales & sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending January 26th, 1905, states:—Since our last a very quiet market has prevailed, with hardly any variation in rates. Our remarks of last week apply to the present position, with great stringency of money and no facilities from banks. The T. T. rate on London is 2/9½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks were placed at \$705 with exchange 70; they are quoted in the south at 715, the latest London quotation being 276. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Canton Insurance have been dealt in at \$250. Yangtsze Insurance. These shares are very difficult to ob-

tain. On the 20th a transaction was reported at \$155 for cash, and on the 25th \$160 was paid for cash, closing firm. Shipping.—Precisely the same rates have ruled for Indo-Chinas, namely Tls. 88 for January delivery and Tls. 91 for March with buyers at the latter rate, but a very trifling business has been done. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. Ordinary shares have changed hands at Tls. 50 and Preference at 48. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ld. There is nothing new to report in this stock. A fair business was done at Tls. 150 for January, closing a little firmer with sales at 151; for March 155 to 157 is a fair index of the forward rate. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. A small lot of old shares were dealt in at Tls. 130 and new at 127½. There is nothing else to report under this heading. Sugars.—China sugars are quoted in the south at \$218 buyers. Mining.—Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. Bearer shares have again been operated in at Tls. 7.65. Weihaiwei Golds. During the week small lots have been placed at \$5, 6, 6½ and 7. The directors have issued a suggestion to the shareholders, to allot one share of \$25, with \$20 credited as paid up, for every one share in the present company. There is a strong feeling in favour of reconstruction. Lands.—Shanghai Land Shares have been placed during the week at Tls. 114 and 115, closing steady at the latter figure. There is nothing else reported under this heading. Industrial.—Cottons. No transactions reported. Ices have been placed at Tls. 19½ and 20. Pulps have been dealt in at Tls. 160 for February, followed by transactions at Tls. 155 and Tls. 152½ for January. Gas shares have changed hands at Tls. 105. Matschappij, etc., in Langkats have varied between Tls. 274, 267½ and 270 for cash in January, with Tls. 280 and 281½ reported for March. For April Tls. 285 has been placed. The market closes fairly steady. Stores and Hotels. Hotel des Colonies are reported at Tls. 20 for January. Astor House shares have been placed at Tls. 27. Hall and Holtz have declined again to \$21. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Horse Bazaars have been placed at Tls. 88 c-n-i, at Tls. 75. Telephones at Tls. 68. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Gas 6 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 95½; Shanghai Land 6 per cent. at Tls. 95½, and Astor House small lots are offered at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 3rd February.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	248
Credits 4 months' sight	251½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	202
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	147
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	146½
Bank, on demand	147
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	97
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	95½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	118½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	par
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.10
GOLD LEAF, 10 fine, per tael	\$53 7½
GAR SILVER, per oz.	280

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—40/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (Overland):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo Tael 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.

- 26, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 27, China, Austrian str., from Moji.
 27, Chilka, British str., from Bangkok.
 27, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 27, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 27, Taming, British str., from Manila.
 27, Yangtze, British str., from Seattle.
 27, Yiksang, British str., from Canton.
 28, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
 28, Decima, German str., from Anping.
 28, Ghazee, British str., from Foochow.
 28, Hinsang, British str., from Hongay.
 28, Juno, Amr. str., from Kobe.
 28, K. Elisabeth, Austrian cruiser, from Macao.
 28, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Profit, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 28, Sobralense, British str., from Moji.
 28, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 28, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 29, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 29, Ardova, British str., from Moji.
 29, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 29, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29, Scotsman, British str., from Saigon.
 29, Waishang, British str., from Wuhu.
 30, Easby Abbey, British str., from Colombo.
 30, Heleue, German str., from Swatow.
 30, Hunan, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 30, Macduff, British str., from Liverpool.
 30, Sithonia, German str., from Shanghai.
 30, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 31, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 31, Bayern, German str., from Yokohama.
 31, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 31, Cebu, American str., from Manila.
 31, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 31, Hupeh, British str., from Wuhu.
 31, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 31, Lyra, American str., from Manila.
 31, Priam, British str., from Japan.
 31, Unda, Norwegian str., from Karatsu.

February—

- 1, Chunsang, British str., from Swatow.
 1, Eiger, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
 1, Fausang, British str., from Samaraang.
 1, Feiching, British str., from Canton.
 1, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 1, Kwangse, British str., from Wuhu.
 1, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
 1, Pakling, British str., from Liverpool.
 1, P. Waldemar, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 1, Seneca, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 2, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Dut. str., from Haiphong.
 2, Fooshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 2, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
 2, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 2, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 2, Mongolia, British str., from S. Francisco.
 2, Opland, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 2, Pentakota, British str., from Singapore.
 2, Rhenania, German str., from Hamburg.
 2, Sachsen, German str., from Bremerhaven.
 2, Sambia, German str., from Hamburg.
 2, Shuntein, British str., from Greenock.
 3, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 3, Taksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 3, Tean, British str., from Manila.

January—

DEPARTURES.

- 27, Benarty, British str., for Bangkok.
 27, Bourbon, French str., for Chinkiang.
 27, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 27, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 27, Loksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 27, Opland, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 27, Princess Marie, Dan str., for Singapore.
 27, Shahzada, British str., for Chinkiang.
 28, Benvorlich, British str., for Nagasaki.
 28, Charterhouse, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
 28, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 28, Highlander, British str., for Kobe.
 28, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Indrapura, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 28, Oceano, British str., for Nagasaki.
 28, Radnorshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 28, Sungkiang, British str., for Iloilo.
 29, Decima, German str., for Swatow.

- 29, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
 29, Gaelic, British str., for Batavia.
 29, Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 29, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 29, Rajaburi, German str., for Pakhoi.
 29, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 29, Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, Astraea, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 30, Chilka, British str., for Japan.
 30, China, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 30, Elis Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
 30, Hogue, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 30, Iphigenia, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 30, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 30, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 30, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 30, Ocean, British battleship, for Mirs Bay.
 30, Sutlej, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 30, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Waishang, British str., for Canton.
 31, Ghazee, British str., for New York.
 31, Helene, German str., for Hoihow.
 31, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 31, Hupeh, British str., for Canton.
 31, Sithonia, German str., for Hamburg.
 31, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 31, Taming, British str., for Manila.

February—

- 1, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 1, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 1, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 1, Haiching, British str., for Tamsui.
 1, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 1, Profit, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 1, Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
 1, Trocas, British str., for Shanghai.
 1, Yangtze, British str., for Java.
 1, Chihli, British str., for Saigon.
 2, Fooshing, British str., for Canton.
 2, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
 2, Onsang, British str., for Singapore.
 2, Pakling, British str., for Yokohama.
 2, Priam, British str., for London.
 2, Unda, Norwegian str., for Yokohama.
 3, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 3, Confidenza, Italian str., for Sasebo.
 3, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Hinsang, British str., for Kobe.
 3, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 3, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 3, Lyra, American str., for Tacoma.
 3, Opland, Norwegian str., for Chinwantan.
 3, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Sydney.
 3, Seneca, British str., for New York.
 3, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
 3, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 3, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 3, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from Colombo, Mr. S. Houghton; from London, Lieut. Col. C. A. Belford, Mrs. Taylor and two infants, Dr. J. Jones, Capt. G. F. Muller; from Gibraltar, Messrs. A. S. M. Duque, A. C. Saccadura; from Marseilles, Mrs. J. Salvador, Miss Turner; from London, for Bombay, Capt. J. Mackenzie Grieve, R.N.; from Penang, for Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss Mackenzie Grieve; from Singapore, for Hongkong, Messrs. C. M. Phillips, S. L. Cowan, J. L. Houston, G. A. Irwin, P. Roza, A. F. Castilho; from London, for Shanghai, Rev. and Mrs. G. A. Clayton & two infants, Miss W. Protheroe, Miss K. Wheatley, Miss G. Markwich, Dr. W. A. Tatchell, Mr. S. J. Webster; from Marseilles, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. Symons, Messrs. A. Hide, J. de Michel; from Singapore, for Shanghai, Messrs. S. R. Calvert, W. Hawkins; from Marseilles, for Yokohama, Mr. L. Gregson and from Port Said, Mr. D. H. Friedlander.
 Per *Bayern*, from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Collis, Mrs. A. Foy, Mr. S. M. Shields; from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. Thoreson, Mrs. M. N. Jowett, Capt. Engelhardt, Messrs. J. C. Bergendahl, O. F. Schick, T. Rozario, C. Thiel and W. Douglas.
 Per *Prinz Waldemar*, from Yokohama, Messrs. T. Kubo, R. Tatsano, T. Watanabe, K. Murata, F. Kimura, R. Maryoto, Y. Fujiwara, S. Ai-awa, H. Kusumi, J. Ishiura, S. Takaiwa, Y. Matsushita, J. Rakimura and N. Akaba; from Kobe, Messrs. E. des Vaux, T. Nemoto, Y. Kobayashi and R. H. Rallern.
 Per *Mongolia*, from San Francisco, Archbishop A. Agius, Lieut. Comdr. J. B. Blish, Messrs. C. W. Bradrick, H. J. Dickenson, V.

Quioque, A. B. Hager, Mrs. Hager, Mr. E. H. Jennings, Mrs. Jennings, Messrs. C. H. Kendall, W. J. King, A. D. Lewis, W. J. Lippy, E. R. Lindsay, E. W. Littlefield, M. A. Marten, J. B. Morton, C. L. Nash, Mrs. Nash, Messrs. D. H. Owings, M. V. del Rosario, Mrs. J. D. Russell and child, Mr. C. A. Stevens, Miss E. M. Tibbitts, Mgr. G. Petrelli, and Mr. H. T. Wilgress; from Honolulu, Miss S. L. King and Mr. J. I. Morgan; from Yokohama, Dr. V. Heiser, Messrs. M. Abe and Hy. P. Thompson; from Kobe, Mrs. Milton, Mr. F. V. Davies, Mrs. E. J. Post, Miss A. E. Knight, and Mr. J. E. Petaval; from Nagasaki, Mrs. E. A. Messer; from Shanghai, Messrs. Jas. McKie, H. M. Bevis, T. Ward, Mrs. B. Moss, Master Moss, Mr. J. M. Turner, Mrs. and Miss Turner, Mrs. R. Taubman, Rev. P. H. Linn, Mrs. Linn, Messrs. S. Oka, K. Ogura, Lieut. Schischmoreff, Messrs. G. I. She Kury, C. S. Lee and Mrs. Lee.

DEPARTED.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Messrs. Samuel Rebarber and P. Van Grunningen, Mrs. Oedjoe, Rev. Geo. J. Silame, Messrs. Chas. McLane, R. E. O. Bird, A. H. Crook, Luiz G. Azoala, Mariano Pizarro and C. Yonetsu.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. W. Mackay and G. Diederichsen; for Penang, Dr. and Mrs. H. Ten Kate; for Colombo, Mr. Vahan Dilsizian; for Marseilles, Messrs. H. de Stampe, K. Bramsen, B. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. W. Malcolm Watson; for London, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. McCan, Rev. and Mrs. Bridie and family, Messrs. R. J. Macgowan and John Sinclair, Misses Edith Macgowan and Maud Macgowan; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. C. J. Warin; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Spackman; for Port Said, Capt. and Mrs. Lillie; for Marseilles, Messrs. Bennet Burleigh and C. B. Kaye; for London, Messrs. W. Grebst, T. N. Chapman and A. Watson, Lieut. E. G. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson and infant.

Per *Bayern*, for Hamburg, &c., Messrs. R. Abrahams and Alexandrof, Dr. Anrorof, Mr. Awgonstowsky, Hon. C. Baring, Mr. D. J. Beachboard, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bennett, Messrs. Berejnoj, H. Biehl, Blinof, Bogdanowitsch, Misses Folton, N. J. and F. Borden, Mr. H. Borge, Dr. Boriskin, Miss M. Bretschneider, Messrs. Brown, A. Bruckner, Mrs. Cheesman, Messrs. P. D. Cooper, E. Cucuelli, Mrs. Dmitriewa and children, Messrs. Dombrowsky, A. Dowson, Droyschaf, Miss Eacott, Rev. Entersle, Mrs. Ermakowa, Mrs. Forum and child, Messrs. Geyer, M. Giuliani, Gorielloff, Miss Gough, Gribanoff, Mr. E. Happer, Rev. D. Harding, Mr. Hassof, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Hopkins, Mrs. Hake, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hyde-Lay and children, Mrs. Iwanowa and child, Messrs. Iranof, Jaschgonovitch, Capt. Kapshonkoff, Mr. K. Kawabata, Mr. and Mrs. Kessler and children, Mr. S. Kinoshita, Dr. Klimof, Capt. Konitzky and Koulchitzky, Messrs. Kramarenko, Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. Kurlof and daughter, Messrs. Littell, Loukini, Dr. Loubienitzky, Mr. G. Loubier, Miss K. Loubier, Messrs. Maksimof, O. Marshall, Mas-Loubier, Messrs. Maksimof, O. Marshall, Mas-Loubier, Miss M. Melville, Messrs. O. Meyer, Ilianikoff, Miss M. Melville, Messrs. O. Meyer, Mitkowsky, Moiselef, Moucharsky, Moustiatz, Murman, Capt. Nazarewsky, Mr. and Mrs. M. Nathans, Miss Niepienina, Messrs. Ordynsky, O. Overbeck, Pawlowsky, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Peabody, Miss A. Pentgenhoist, Messrs. Pissarvitch, Phillips, Capt. Podonschkin, Mr. and Mrs. Polonboyarenof, Mr. Pouliat, Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Price, Dr. Raditzky, Messrs. M. Raeburn, Ramanovsky, Reinsdorff, Rybakof, Saffronof, Sackowsky, Saifoulin, Dr. Sawitzky, Messrs. Schiloff, B. Schrenders, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Schwarz, Miss A. Schwetach, Messrs. O. Schweigardt, Schwindt, Schwanskof, Seydel, Siwakof, S. Shinjo, Capt. Skorupo, Mrs. Skrip-liewa, Messrs. Sokolof, H. v. d. Sloot, Solowien, Capt. Soulominof, Mr. H. Steinhoff, Miss Storr, Mr. and Mrs. Bos Su pke, Messrs. Terehof, Tevelguilden, Tiskobaieff, Franz Thorbecke, Trevithick, Trofimof, Trudol, Vernon, Waak, Mrs. Wasiliawa, Messrs. Werchowaky, S. Wevell, Wiese, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Wheeler, Messrs. Wieliaminof, Woicchowaky, Woltersdorff, Dr. Ziemengof, and Mr. Zienkof.

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